

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am MDT—YouTube

CUCC BUENA VISTA CO

and

***10:00am MDT 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
October, 2020



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

"Congratulations to Mallory"

My warmest greetings to you all, and as we are still in COVID times, I can only send you *virtual* hugs. I pray that you are well and healthy and remain careful in all your comings and goings.

Speaking of coming and going, I am compelled to tell you that on the afternoon of Sunday, September 13, I accompanied Rebecca to La Foret in Colorado Springs for an Ecclesiastical Council for Mallory Everhart, our interim pastor during Rebecca's sabbatical leave. An Ecclesiastical Council is held following the writing and presentation of a rather lengthy paper, similar to but shorter than a thesis or dissertation. In Mallory's case, the paper traced her spiritual path to the point in her life where she felt called to pursue the ministry as her way of serving her God, and then to her discovery of the United Church of Christ, which she has now embraced as the place she has chosen to make her spiritual home. I am grateful for that and hope that you are, too. Before I share some excerpts from that paper with you, I am pleased to tell you that of the approximately 50 attendees (in person and via Zoom), the vote was unanimous to approve her for ordination pending call.

Early on, Mallory shares her vision of her pastoral role as the steward in the Parable of the Great Dinner (Luke 14:15-24) in which a man gave a great feast, but the invitees made excuses for not being able to attend. The host then instructed his steward to bring back people from the streets, lanes, and byways including the poor, crippled, and lame to fill his house and share the meal, reminding us that God calls all into relationship, "but only some will choose to accept the invitation. As a minister of Word and Sacrament it is my job to extend the invitation in an accessible way to those who have traditionally been excluded." She also says "from the testimony of scripture I am convinced that the vision God has for humanity works itself out in community....God bringing people into relationship with each other and with Godself." And later, "Simply put, though it is difficult, we are better together." And still later "in church, we practice world-making. We know the world is not as we would have it, but in church, we get to catch a glimpse of what it could be."

There are many more things I'd like to share, but my space to do so is limited. A print copy of the whole paper is posted on the bulletin board, or we can email it to you upon your request to kroman@bresnan.net.

One last quote: "Now, more than ever I am convinced that the world needs the faithful witness and intentional community which can be found within a church..." Now, anxiety about the future and relevance of the church abounds among us. I don't know about you, but the idea of change has a tendency to make us, myself included, a bit uncomfortable. In Mallory's words (far better than mine!), "the church is consistently forming and re-forming as it responds to the needs of its communities. It is that responsiveness which needs to come to the fore...it will not be wholly new but a creative re-rendering of the resources which came before, smelted in the fire of the Spirit and shaped by those committed to living a called and Christ-centered life."

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

Kathy Roman, Moderator

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

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—Warm jacket/lap 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, October, 2020

*“Help us accept each other, as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live. (#596)*

Brene' Brown, in her book, *Braving the Wilderness*, talks of the **absolute importance of social connectivity and creating real community** in our times—especially in this slightly (highly?) impersonal digital age in which we find ourselves. (Keep in mind this was written well before COVID.) She and other social scientists have studied the life-changing difference that true connection makes.

Susan Pinker puts it: *“In a short evolutionary time, we have changed from group-living primates skilled at reading each other's every gesture and intention to a solitary species, each one of us preoccupied with our own screen.”* There is simply no substitute for in-person interactions. They are proven to: bolster our immune system, send positive hormones surging through our bloodstream and brain, and help us live longer. We need connection. There's no question!

Electronic connection has been a lifesaver these past few months, and we are most grateful for Zoom meetings and church gatherings from the safety of our homes; YouTube virtual worship; emails, texts, cards, and letters. Thank God we have all that! But, electronic community just doesn't *quite* do it. And now, we find ourselves in a “liminal space” of figuring out that fine line: community gathering with its spiritual uplift and balancing that with physical safety. In this age, Pastoral Care = Tech support at times, and helping one another to connect at all—so we try to get everyone “wired.”

In-home visits have had to be so very limited, as pastors and congregants around the world are finding and sharing the word of caution with one another when we're tempted to resume a more “hands on” ministry. I have had several porch visits with several CUCC folks that were so heartening. (and warm—whew!) But I have missed terribly the opportunity to provide a ministry of presence in homes and hospitals, hold church in the sanctuary, have coffee hour together in person with hugs and smiles without masks.

Winter is coming. Your leadership (Strategic Planning Team, or SPT) is working very hard to study the science and the health department guidelines, as well as learn of other organizations' success and failure stories, measure the spaces, become ventilation engineers overnight, pray and lead humbly, to the best of our knowledge and abilities. We will figure out a way to be “safer” in winter, but cannot guarantee 100% safety and protection with the limitations of our building. And, we cannot promise that in-person gathering will always be possible, though desirable, as we seek to protect the priceless treasure of one another and our beloved congregation—many of whom fall into the “high risk” category.

So, the question before us is this: if connection, in person, is so vital to life and well-being, how do we do that in meaningful ways right now? How do we “think outside the box (or the sanctuary)” in ways we never have before? How do we push past our own resistance, whether to “learning the tech,” picking up the phone more often, writing those cards, figuring out new and different ways to safely gather in smaller groups, still being the church together? It's harder now, for sure. But nothing is beyond God's creativity and the possibilities when we seek with all our hearts to connect with all our hearts.

So, as the hymn says, our prayer is: help us accept each other, and that we're all doing our best, ministering together. Teach us to embrace in new and meaningful ways as we move forward together in faithfulness, hope, and love.

Blessings and Virtual Hugs, Pastor Rebecca

P.S. – Strategic Planning Team for Re-Opening (SPT): Mark Wolters, Chair, Kathy Roman, Moderator; Ron Hassell and Ron Rak (Facilities Team); Linda Rak and Janet Steiner (Worship Team); Betsy Neas (Education Team); Matthew Maloney (Consultant/Virtual Worship Leader); Pastor Rebecca.

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**.



CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

BOY SCOUT TROOP 67

I thought I would provide an update on the Boy Scout Troop you sponsor. We have only 6 boys, 4 in 9th grade, 2 in 6th. The 2 younger boys went with me to a week-long residential camp in July and participated with the Salida Troop in a campout in September. We have been trying to get an outing for the older boys but lack adequate adults for the outings. Anyone willing to help me find more youth (11 through 17) and adults willing and able to go on hikes and campouts, please contact me at 719-966-2004.

Merilee Daugherty

KUDOS COLUMN



Nancy Best, Leonard Nyberg, Judy Phelps, and all the staff who have kept the church going beautifully during COVID with lots of good upkeep, communication, presence, and spirit!

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** or call/text **719-252-6890**.

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

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.



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

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

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

Al & Phyllis McCall (719) 966-9552-A, (719) 659-9597-P
7950 W. Byers Ave. #102, Lakewood, CO 80226

Millie & Tom Meardon (719) 221-2067 -M
531 McAfee Avenue, Las Animas, CO 81054

Gail Moffat (719) 221-1131
922 W. Main Street, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Charlotte Smith (719) 395-2939
129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Sarah Struthers (719) 395-6888
17100 CR 363, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Gerry and Jean Venard (720) 489-4830
3377 Mill Vista Road, Unit #3205
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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

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

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

CUCC Special Dates



BIRTHDAYS

October 6—Roger Cason
October 9—Jon Roorda
October 10—Tom Rawlins
October 11—Herb Daugherty
October 11—Avis Rutkowski
October 13—VirJeanne Williams
October 13—Alice Wolters
October 15—Reggie Nelson
October 16—Don Taylor
October 16—Brady Wolters
October 19—Shirl Holloway
October 21—Dick Scar
October 24—Ruth Amster
October 31—Karen Bowers

ANNIVERSARIES

October 25—Steve & Adele Jackson



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

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
The Family of Lew Lowe—Comfort
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
Jim Padgett (Edie's husband)—Healing
Jean Brody—Healing
Ruby Hamilton—Healing
Rob Ferris—Healing
The Extended Family of Vivian York—Comfort



CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS

OBITUARY FOR LEWIS L. LOWE
from the Chaffee County Times



Lewis L. “Lew” Lowe, 90, of Willow Street, PA, formerly of Buena Vista, Colorado, passed away on September 16, 2020 at his home in Willow Valley Communities. Born on a farm in Humeston, Iowa, Lew was the son of the late Harry J. and Pearl E. (Bahr) Lowe. He was also the loving husband of Jean I. (Gardner) Lowe for 62 years until her passing in 2018.

After going to college at the University of Iowa and serving as a sergeant and captain in the Air Force, Lew pursued a long and successful career as a banker. He began his career in Iowa, working primarily for Hawkeye Bancorporation, while raising his family in Rock Rapids. He and Jean moved to Buena Vista in the mid-'80's, where he started the Collegiate Peaks Bank from scratch in his late 50s. As a banker and as a friend, Lew will be remembered by many for his commitment to helping others and working to improve Buena Vista. During his career as the bank's president, Lew helped many small business and farm owners to open or enhance their operations.

During his life, Lew enjoyed being active in the Lions, Optimist, and Kiwanis clubs. His work with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Buena Vista was special to him. In his retirement, he and Jean relocated to Pennsylvania to be closer to their children. In his free time he enjoyed golf, pool, and pickleball. He was also very fond of playing cards, his favorites being cribbage, bridge and pinochle. Those that knew him well knew that when you played cards with Lew, you sat at the table ready to play.

He will be sorely missed by his sons: James Lowe, husband of Sherry, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Timothy Lowe, husband of Dawn, of Ellicott City, Maryland. He is also survived by his brother, Ralph Lowe of Iowa, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in passing by his wife Jean and brother, Gordon Lowe.

A private interment will take place at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, Pennsylvania. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County—Lew Lowe Memorial—BV Building Fund, PO Box 1430, Salida, CO 81201.





view from the Mountain

“IT’S OK TO CRY”

Yes, it is ok to cry. In fact, as we go through each stage in life and knowing the horror of the way this virus spreads, I really don’t know what will stop the tears. I sincerely understand, being the mother of four, that you would have to take your spot, your private place so your tears won’t scare those who can’t handle it.

When I was traveling a whole lot to lecture to nurses across the country, I had many interesting conversations with jet seatmates. One in particular I would like to tell you about. Meeting new people is such a pleasure for me. Everyone has a life story and most of them like to tell it. Because I flew so much, every time I buckled up I looked to the person next to me and looked for a new story.

One time while flying to Florida, boy did I get a story. I had the window seat, an elderly lady took the isle seat, and in between us sat this young man. Actually he occupied his seat and half of mine. Later he told me weighed over three hundred pounds and was almost seven feet tall. Our conversation started when he asked where I was going. I told him and he followed me by telling me he was going to a construction job in Louisiana. Then he said how he hated to be away from his wife and two little girls. I smiled as he continued to say that he had turned his life around a few years ago. As he talked, I noticed he began pushing his shirtsleeves up his arm.

“See there? They’re scars from knife stabs, and here,” he opened his work shirt and revealed bullet holes. Then he was quiet, seemingly to let me absorb his words. Announcing further, the man said he had been in a street gang. “I got to be the gang leader.” Then he said, “Lady, I have seen everything and I’ve done it all.”

Well, he sure had my attention then. So I asked him just what turned him around, to get his mind going in a different direction. The sweetest smile crossed his face. And he said, “My wife. I fell in love and I wanted to marry her. But she said she wouldn’t marry me if I was still a gang leader. You have to straighten up your life if you want to be a daddy.” And here came the hardest part. He said, “See lady I still have this awful temper. I flare when I get angry and I lose it,” he said. “Then one night I did lose it, got in a terrible fight and lost every dang tooth in my head. See? My temper won and my wife don’t like how I look now. And she says she don’t like how I kiss neither and that ain’t funny.”

I felt a little chill inside as I saw his jaw tighten and his hands fisted in his lap. I said to him, “So you’re not in a gang anymore and no more fighting. That’s great. The swap to take care of your little family is much better than fighting.”

“Yea, but don’t get me wrong. I would fight to the death to protect my family.” He stiffened his spine and narrowed his eyes, “Listen lady, I ain’t scared of nothing. Not one thing.”

I felt even more uneasy, so when the snacks were passed around I turned my attention to that. It gave him time to pull his magazines out of his bag. I stole a quick glance at them. Every one was a weapons magazine with many illustrations of guns. That did it. I decided I really did not want to hear the rest of his angry thinking or story. So I laid my head back and closed my eyes. Well, I must have fallen asleep, because I was startled awake by the roll and pitch of the plane. The pilot was saying on the loudspeaker that very bad weather was ahead. Well, he wasn’t kidding. Rarely have I been on a plane that was being tossed around in the black sky like this was. Lightening was striking inside and out. I glanced at my ultra-tough former gang member who was afraid of absolutely nothing. There he sat, his face white as a sheet, perspiration literally pouring down his face and neck. His arms were crossed over his massive chest to protect himself.

He caught my glance and, stuttering badly, said, “Lady, I am scared out of my skull. We’re going to get killed right here.” The terrified giant next to me took his seriously shaking hands tattooed with swords and snakes and he wrapped them around my hands. He held them for dear life. I squeezed them and said to him, “I’m with you so hang on.” His weapons catalog slid off his lap onto the floor.

Finally our jet flew out of the storm and evened itself once more. Only then did my fearless new friend release his grip on my hand. Without a word, he wiped the sweat and the tears off with his open palms and laid back against the seat completely and utterly spent. As we left the plane, this guy turned to me and said, “I thank you. I guess I learned an important lesson. Sometimes the tough aren’t so tough after all. Also, I learned it’s ok to cry when you’re scared.”

I’d like to end this column by saying to everyone reading this that if you’re getting through this unprecedented battle with a virus that we don’t know enough about and we break down once in a while and cry, well the release will do you good. Grab my hands and hang on for dear life. Remember I’m in this exactly like you are, like we all are, and it’s OK to cry.

The view from the mountain is wondrous! ~ Jean Brody



CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Did you know that CUCC has a newly-named PASTOR AND CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE?

In our by-laws, Article XV, the formation of a Pastoral Relations Committee is outlined, chiefly to respond to the arrival of a new pastor. However, section 3 mentions the appointment of a more permanent group. The church Council in 2018 approved its formation. At the July, 2018, Council meeting, discussion was held and it was moved to establish such a committee. It will be a small group as recommended by the denomination and other churches. Membership in the PRC will be rotated annually among those who are willing and able to serve. In some faith communities, other boards or teams carry this function; many churches do establish a PRC. The UCC has published several pamphlets to aid its churches. We are relying on these publications and our own sense of what will lead us all at CUCC to improve our ministry. Here is a quote from such a publication: “The pastoral relations committee supports and maintains an open relationship between the ordained minister and members of the congregation. It helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams and interpretations of mission. It gives a framework for dealing with conflict creatively.” Here at CUCC, the PRC will meet quarterly and when a specific need arises. Some of our permanent goals are:

- ** clarifying the pastor’s position description and mutual expectations
- ** supporting the pastor’s ministry at CUCC, in the community and denomination
- ** working for improved communication between the pastor and the congregation
- ** participating in an annual evaluation of the pastor and an evaluation of the church’s ministry
- ** listening to individuals and groups regarding the relationship between the pastor and the congregation
- ** acting within an atmosphere of confidentiality

Please note that the Committee has been renamed: PASTOR AND CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONS

As always our hope is that together we can learn together, listen together, and work together for a healthy, blessed future at CUCC. Please contact us—we are here for everyone.

Helen Duncan, chair

Mike Evans, Arlene Waldorf, Mark Wolters, Kathy Roman

THE PASSING OF LEW LOWE

Hi Rebecca,

This is Jim Lowe out in Pennsylvania. I got to meet you, probably 15 years ago, my last visit to Buena Vista. I sure enjoyed visiting CUCC and I know it was a very special place to my folks (My dad, the pack-rat, had months of CUCC's newsletters saved...ha.).



I just wanted you to know that he passed away today (Sept. 16) and to know the blessing you and the congregation were to him and my mom, Jean.

They also really enjoyed your cards you sent over the years. God Bless CUCC, the members, and your ministry to glorify Christ.

Thank you for the memorial window for my folks! That's wonderful. I remember seeing in one of the newsletters that CUCC is taking donations for new windows. Is this still going on?

We will be putting an obituary in your local paper.

Because of COVID, we are only having a family service at the cemetery (Ft. Indiantown Gap Cemetery), probably in early October. Folks can send messages or condolences to me at my email (J.L.Lowe@outlook.com) or can go to the funeral home's website: www.snyderfuneralhome.com. Having some memories of my folks to read at the funeral would be great!

Thanks again for all your prayers! Here is a pic of Lew and Jean from a few years ago...
Jim



SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM CLASS

—RMC/La Foret (intensive)

November Class TBA, ONLINE

“Sacred Conversations to End Racism, Three Month Mini-Intensive: Rev. Clare Twomey and Rev. Kris Watson” are offering another shortened, online SC2ER course. This teaching team is leading similar cohorts all over the USA, including two very successful cohorts here in the RMC. We are lucky to have them offering a condensed program at a discounted rate for the Rocky Mountain Conference, (\$200 per person, including continuing education credits for clergy). This study begins with a two-day intensive, with follow up meetings every other week for a period of three months. Follow up meeting times and dates will be determined by the group. All meetings are via Zoom.

SC2ER is an established program of the UCC developed by Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice. This program goes in greater depth than other racial justice trainings, including the UCC’s White Privilege curriculum. Through in-depth study, group learning, and honest self-reflection, participants will be able to begin a life-long journey to understand and recognize deeply embedded bias, racism, and perceived cultural exceptionalism. This training has been crafted to challenge participants to work towards de-centering whiteness and dismantling systemic structures which perpetuate racism, through the process of restorative justice. Please join us for this crucial work.

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**.



CUCC HISTORY by Suzy Kelly

The top photo is of what was the 1st church located on Tabor Street in Buena Vista. The bottom photo is of the building after it was moved across the frozen Town Lake on a sledge and set on North Gunnison. This was done in 1906, but when they decided to build a new church, they first moved this church to the back of the lot to make room for the new brick church they were going to build. The top photo is the building after it had been remodeled to be the Chaffee County Republican newspaper office in 1937. This was the newspaper run by Ed Gregg and inherited by Gilbert ‘Gibby’ Gregg at age 15 in 1927.

The building when it was first moved was the office of a company called the Colorado Rubber Production Company. It was a short lived business which hoped to use a wild plant growing in the area to produce rubber for tires. It housed other buildings before it became the Republican Office.

I have not found a photo of the building when on Tabor Street as a wooden church.

The brick church was then built on the site and finished in six months in 1907. The first service was held on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1907. This church building was sold, and a new church was started in 1962 on Crossman Ave.

This brick building has been remodeled and used as a plumbing office, a natural food store, and had the top removed and an apartment put above it since it was no longer the church. The building is still standing on Tabor Street.

CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS



LES AND MARY MESSAMER

Mary recently turned 92 (and Les is 94). Woo hoo! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY!**



LA PUENTE HYGIENE BAGS

Hygiene Bags for La Puente are being made. We plan for an October delivery.

Items needed are good used or new bath towels, wash clothes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, bar soap or body wash, razors, combs, nail files, and bandanas. Travel-sized toiletries are always welcome.

Please place items in the WMS drawer in the bench in the narthex.

We appreciate any and all donations! Thank you!

Women's Missionary Society



DID YOUKNOW?

6 Ways to Give!

Exciting Options for 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!



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!



TELLS Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society Tuesdays, 7:00PM via Zoom



All women are welcome!

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

COLLEGIATE PEAKS FORUM SERIES™



COLLEGIATE PEAKS FORUM SERIES presents:

Dr. Jeffrey Lockwood

**“The Epic (and Operatic) Tale of the Rocky Mountain Locust:
An Environmental Murder Mystery featuring Locust: The Opera”**

**Thursday, October 22, 7:00pm (Mtn. Time)
via Zoom**

Dr. Jeffrey Lockwood is a Professor of Natural Sciences and Humanities at the University of Wyoming and will be talking about an environmental murder mystery, the disappearance of the Rocky Mountain Locust.

To quote Dr. Lockwood, “Perhaps never in human history has it been more vital for us to come to terms with our own power and responsibility regarding our fellow inhabitants of the planet.”

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.

***** AND *****

SAVE THE DATE! Temple Grandin returns to CPFS!

“Different Kinds of Minds”

Thursday, November 5

7:00pm, via Zoom

PASTOR'S REPORT

PASTOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL, September 16, 2020

Dear Council,

I pray you are having a good and productive meeting this evening. I send my support and prayers for this week of dialogue, exploring together with the Listening Team, and thoughtful consideration of our church's joys, strengths, concerns, growing edges, and hopes and dreams for mission, identity, and purpose into the future. I encourage you to read the attached chapter of *“Healthy Congregations, Faithful Pastors”* by David Keck. Since I am away, I am sharing this written report of some of the work I have been doing and projects we all are involved with as leadership.

- ***Connect with people** daily and weekly through calls, texts cards, e-messages, to check-in and see how they're doing, hear about their families, invite to church, offer prayers. Watch over the congregation's pastoral ministry with all, to assure everyone is being checked on and supported.
- ***Connect folks** (in church and outside) with resources beyond what the church can provide; assess needs for: AVHH, counselors, support groups, caregivers and meal providers in the community.
- ***Grief support** for those losing loved one – recent and past. Exploring ideas for memorial services.
- ***Planning a memorial ceremony** for families in the community who have experienced the loss of a child, during the holiday season. (Young parents reached out to me/CUCC and asked for this.)
- ***Worship prep**, music, prayers, and preaching for **YouTube Worship** each week with the Online Worship Team; follow-up with posting on social media and sharing service via email; **correspondence** with viewers and feedback. **Managing** licenses, etc. to assure compliance.
- ***Worship prep**, music, etc. and coordination with the SPT for **outdoor worship** – tech and safety concerns and planning. Line up guest speakers and musicians.
- ***Write** Monday morning prayers and **coordinate and proof** all office communications, both virtual and hard copy, with Nancy, as well as all other church administration, as needed.
- ***Coordinate requests** for safe building use with SPT and staff, according to COVID guidelines.
- ***Interface with the community** on educational offerings and events and mission opportunities.
- ***Coordinate with Facilities Team** for building and grounds concerns, needs, and findings.
- ***Lead and prep TELS** discussions on current book and other resources – invite community in.
- ***Provide** resources and ideas and coordinate with **Faith Education Team** for adult and children's programs. **Participate** as able on Sunday mornings, and **plan** additional education offerings.
- ***Explore** ways CUCC can be more involved with needy segments of the population and minister with other churches in our area, as well as hear voices of those on the margins.
- ***Resource the community** via the CUCC website on COVID, racism, and other vital topics.
- ***Work with community leaders** on dismantling racism and addressing concerns of hate speech, actions, and intimidation of persons of color or LGBTQ identity in our area.
- ***Participate in zoom** prayer meetings for pastors in BV and Salida and regular zooms with RMC Clergy.
- ***Mallory Everhart** – Ecclesiastical Council, Sept. 13 - Kathy Roman and I went to La Foret to participate. As her advisor, I had given feedback, then coordinated with other CUCCers to read the paper and attend as delegates on Zoom. (She did a fantastic job and was approved unanimously for ordination pending call.)
- ***Researching** books and articles on healthy congregation dynamics, healthy boundaries; **gleaning** ideas for churches moving forward in COVID times and beyond. Preaching and sermon skills **study**.
- ***Conversations with the Listening Team** to understand congregational dynamics and my piece of the puzzle in that—greater awareness and growing edges and constructive feedback.
- ***Clergy coaching and Spiritual Direction** once a month – exploring the above.
- ***Work with Finance Team** on budget (trimming), expenses, and congregational meeting.
- ***Work with Moderators** on schedule to assure time away for rest and family is taken and spread throughout the year, per Covenant Agreement—planning coverage when needed.
- ***Tending to spiritual life** with daily devotions (Upper Room, UCC, others); participation in Pilgrimage to Love (UMC program emphasizing a faithful response to racism by all baptized persons.)

Pastoral concerns – some of the most recent - Health Issues, Challenges, and Losses: Ruby Hamilton, Rob Ferris, Rick Fagerberg, Barb Wilder's friend, Les Messamer, Marcille Drake, Struthers, Lew Low, Venards, Ann Condra, Mike Wells, Gale Shaw, Bob & Laurie Stevens, anonymous others.

CUCC REPORTS

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

The Team is continuing to discuss COVID and the possibility of reopening the building. We're also making progress on more LED tube replacements.

STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

On Sept. 18 three members of the Team met with Council and members of the Conference Visioning Team. Their report was presented and reviewed. Among topics discussed were:

1. Dealing with conflict
 2. Building trust by practicing humility and listening
 3. Re-centering focus on mission and ministry of the church.
- The full report will be available after the Oct. Council meeting.

Worship Team Notes

Outdoor services have been the priority considerations for the past month. A separate group has been put together that is working on plans for resuming indoor worship.

Outreach/Community & World Team News October greetings!

- *The Neighbors in Need offering is going on during October. Envelopes may be available in the office, but a note written on a check donation is sufficient. You can also donate on-line via tithe.ly!
- *The Backpack Program is in full-swing. Please donate any plastic shopping bags, as we currently can't use reusable bags due to COVID.
- *Remember reading about the Pastoral Relations Committee? Yes, it still exists, but has been renamed the Pastor and Congregational Relations Committee. The current members are Helen Duncan, chairman, Mike Evans, Arlene Waldorf, Mark Wolters, and Kathy Roman. See a larger article on the PRC elsewhere in this newsletter.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Ten of us came together Wednesday morning to discuss how we see the 95th Annual Bazaar proceeding. Janet Steiner, the Bazaar chair, had printed out the applicable rules from the Colorado State Health Department and we discussed them. The Rocky Mountain Christmas Fair, held at the Middle/High School will not take place this year, St. Rose has cancelled, and we are not sure what the Lutheran ladies and Grace will do. Janet made the motion that we postpone our Bazaar until next spring or summer, Rhonda seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Please continue working on your projects. Delmar is working on a wood carving project for the auction and the quilt is finished. The Spring Garden quilt alternates between 9-square blocks and appliquéd flowers with greens being the predominate color. The following ladies all had a hand in creating our quilt: Linda Rak, Billy Branch, Barb Wilder, Janet Steiner, and Helen Duncan. Thank you to you all!

Merilee again mentioned that WMS will need a President, Vice President and Secretary for 2021.

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

Children's Church has now resumed! :)

Please join us for Conversations That Matter, Sundays at 9:00am, and Living in the Cloud of Unknowing, first and third Wednesdays through Nov. 4 at 10:00am, both at CUCC.

Finance and Budget Team October News

The new cloud-based PowerChurch data system for membership and financial information is working well. Our Financial Secretary and Treasurer no longer have to share a laptop between them and we never have to worry about our membership information not being properly backed-up.

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



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.
- ◆ 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.*

LIVING IN THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWING

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 - September 16, 2020

7:15pm 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 26th due to the nationwide Corona Virus Pandemic.)

Sign on and Greeting: Moderator Kathy Roman, Vice Moderator Mark Wolters, Kay Allinger, Merilee Daugherty, Helen Duncan, Lesley Fagerberg, Betsy Neas, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf.

Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Kathy Roman began the meeting with a prayer.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the August Council Meeting were presented for corrections. None noted; approved as published and filed.

Clerk’s Report: Ron reported that Jeff and Kathy Keidel requested their membership be withdrawn August 22nd.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Lloyd Martinez was not present for the meeting. Bill Waldorf spoke for the team, noting that as of the end of July the budget was pretty good. The treasurer had not yet provided August financial data. Bill has requested a meeting with the treasurer and Lesley Fagerberg to review bookkeeping. The Financial Secretary is receiving sufficient information for her bookkeeping and there are no problems submitting income; Lesley confirmed that receipts are consistent with the last two months of income.

Moderator’s Report: Kathy Roman reported that she is in almost constant email and phone contact with Pastor Rebecca and various team chairs. She announced that she and Bob Stocker would be leading the September 20 Sunday service while Rebecca is on vacation. Betsy is conducting pastoral care through September 25th. Kathy also noted that she and Rebecca attended Mallory Everhart’s recent Ecclesiastical Council at La Foret in Colorado Springs, with about 20 other in-person conference attendees, plus many Zoom internet attendees. The vote unanimously approved her for ordination pending call. Kudos to Mark Wolters for his leadership of the Strategic Planning Team for considerations regarding use of the sanctuary for indoor services. The planned September 27 Congregational Meeting is “outside on the green,” with a contingency for the sanctuary—and overflow in the Fellowship Hall—with chairs marked to preserve social distance.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Resumption of Services and Activities

Council members reported that to date: The Strong Women group was meeting outdoors at Betsy’s residence; the Boy Scouts were meeting in the Fellowship Hall at the same time as the TELLS group met in the Adult Education room.

Outdoor and Indoor Services

Mark Wolters, chair of the Strategic Planning Team, recommended that the following topics be addressed and settled at our next Council meeting:

Sanitizer stations/Make spare masks available

Screening of attendees/An 11-question questionnaire of symptoms

Windows open for ventilation

Policy of monitoring attendees while inside for mask wearing

Ingress-egress by rows (6 people per row), IN the Main Entrance, OUT the double doors

Flu season adds a level of concern

Indoor services should be shorter

Listening/Visioning Session Updates

The five-person Listening Team from the Rocky Mountain Conference will be in Buena Vista on Friday, September 18, to meet with Council to discuss their report and suggest how the sessions with the congregation should be conducted. All Council members were asked to pre-read the 4-page report before the meeting. Helen noted Erin Gilmore’s cover letter to the report, with three questions to keep in mind while reading the report.

Pastoral Relations Committee

Helen reported that the committee had decided on a new name: Pastor and Congregational Relations Committee. The committee was reconstituted to include Arlene Waldorf to replace Judy Hassell, who has accepted the Assistant Treasurer position. Other members are Helen Duncan, Mike Evans, and both moderators. The committee reviewed the RMC Listening Team report and had the following suggestions for Council:

The report should be distributed to everyone in the congregation, with a cover letter explaining the reasons and process.

*Two Sundays, probably in October, should be planned for the committee (or whoever is designated) to meet with small congregation groups.

*A detailed plan is needed to deal with the report. Look at the bigger picture: 1. The mission of the church; 2. What do you want to see in the church? 3. Be open to people talking to the committee—keep it from being “gripe sessions and gossip.”

*A mutual ministry review of both the pastor’s and the church’s strengths should be done sometime in the fall. The group recommended a book: “Healthy Churches, Faithful Pastors” by David Keck as an accompanying read.

*Kathy Roman added additional considerations: Refocus, re-center, and learn from others’ stories. Proceed at the speed the congregation wants. We can’t force change. We must establish mutual covenants and trust with each other.

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Outreach Team—Helen Duncan: The October emphasis will be on mustering donations for our foreign student, Angelo Abellano, and possibly a contribution to the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission.

Worship Team—Linda Rak: Outdoor services have been the priority considerations for the past month. Not much planning has been done for upcoming indoor services. Betsy asked whether the team was visiting any church members who have not attended the outdoor services. Linda stated that there was no organized effort to do so, while Kathy said that she had been making some phone calls and encouraged anyone from the church to make calls to anyone anytime.

Faith Education Team—Betsy Neas: Betsy noted that the team is currently short-handed, as there are only two remaining team members of the original five: Donna Maloney and herself. Adult study sessions have been conducted outdoors Sunday mornings before church over the past few weeks, using a the booklet entitled “Reflection Guide for Faith Communities—Democracy Values and the 2020 Election.” There is enough material to continue for five more weeks. She mentioned that Molly Stuart continues to conduct scheduled sessions entitled “Living in the Cloud of Unknowing”; three more sessions are planned. A major concern is that the children of the church have not been coming to church. There was a successful summer program called “Church in a Box” that started in June, which the children loved, but has since finished. Should this program be extended?

Finance and Budget Team—Bill Waldorf: Bill suggested that he and Lesley could access the church financials online for summary data for future Council meetings, if reports have not been received from the Treasurer. The 2020 Budget was finalized, and copies are available in the narthex of the church. The 2020 Revised Proposed Budget reduces expenses by \$6,800 when compared with the initial Proposed Budget voted down at January’s Annual Meeting. Final changes made to the Budget in comparison with the initial 2020 Proposed Budget, based on recent actual data, include \$2,600 of pastor’s voluntary cuts in benefit package and \$3,300 of reductions in Team budgets not used because of the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. Total Budgeted Expenses have been reduced from \$165,700 in 2019 to \$156,400 in 2020. As to Income, to be conservative, the Revised Proposed Budget currently anticipates General Contributions of \$143,000 (based on receipts through July 2020), compared to 2019’s actual figure of \$149,800. If this conservative estimate of contributions is not exceeded, the budget gap of \$9,300 will necessarily be taken from the Trustees Reserve Fund, the present balance of which is about \$45,000.

In preparation for voting on the budget at the September 27 Congregational Meeting, Bill asked whether we should provide a proxy voting option in case there aren’t enough people attending the meeting. The current 2007 Bylaws are silent on proxy and absentee ballot voting. Also, there is no quorum requirement for the Congregational Meeting. Voting is decided by a majority of those present, so there is no perceived need for proxy voting. Kathy suggested we might review other church’s bylaws for comparison.

VOTE: Helen moved/Betsy seconded that the revised 2020 Budget be approved by the Council. Motion passed unanimously.

Report on Musician’s Status—Bill advised that some churches consider musicians either as contractors or employees. The only circumstance to consider is whether they are otherwise employed. Our only current “employee” is Judy Phelps, the pianist. Bill noted that it is usually safer from a tax standpoint to use the employee route, unless it is just for an isolated job. For our current situation, it is more or less an irrelevant issue at this time, since she is an “employee.”

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Women’s Missionary Society—Merilee Daugherty: Merilee reported that three of the four current officers were not continuing into next year, so there is a need for some new officers. Treasurer Kay Allinger is the only continuing officeholder.

Regarding the fall Church Bazaar, planners Merilee and Janet Steiner proposed to postpone the event until after Easter 2021. This will give those working on projects more time to finish. A raffle item for the event is also in the works.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee—Kathy Roman: Kathy noted that it is time to form a nominating committee to submit possible candidates for next year’s officers and Team members. No volunteers stepped forward. She will talk with last year’s chairperson, Judy Hassell, to see if she might continue in that capacity for 2021.

Review our Purpose and Mission Statement: It was the consensus of those gathered to postpone this item because of the lateness of the hour. Note: This was handed out and read aloud at the Congregational Meeting on Sept. 27, 2020.

PASTOR’S REPORT

See Rebecca’s emailed report from September 16. [elsewhere in newsletter]

PRAYER CONCERNS/UPDATES

It was noted that Ruby Hamilton was in need of prayers for healing as she had suffered a shoulder injury.

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Wolters closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for October 21, 7:00pm.

Prepared by Ron Rak