

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am MST—YouTube

[CUCC Buena Vista CO](#)

217 Crossman Ave.; Mailing: PO Box 610

Buena Vista, CO 81211

Office: 719-395-2544

Fax Number: 719-395-3789

Email: office.bvcucc@gmail.com

Website: www.bvcucc.org

Like us on Facebook! Look for Congregational UCC Buena Vista

No matter who you are, no matter where you are
in life's journey, you are welcome here at the
Congregational United Church of Christ in
Buena Vista.



Congregational United Church of Christ
217 Crossman Ave.
P.O. Box 610
Buena Vista, CO 81211
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



News and Views

Congregational United Church of Christ
December, 2020



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

For a while now I've been contemplating the concept of "covenant," so I began reading up on the topic to see if my understanding matched that of others, and moreover what the Bible teaches us. I learned, for example, that the word "covenant" occurs 366 times from Genesis through Revelation and the first mention comes in Genesis 6:18 (NRSV) with Noah: "But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark...", and in Chapter 9:14-15 after the great flood recedes, God vows "I have set my bow [rainbow] in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth: ...flood waters will never again destroy all creatures." Now I understand that line in the old spiritual about God giving Noah "the rainbow sign!"

In another example from Genesis 15, during the ancient times of Abram (later to become Abraham), a covenant between two people was cemented by laying out the severed halves of sacrificial animals on either side of an aisle. The parties would then walk down that aisle signifying an agreement, a contract, or covenant between them. If the contract was broken by either party, that person could be killed and their body severed, broken in two pieces, as it were. In the Genesis story, God directed Abram to make the sacrifices and lay out the severed parts and then go to sleep. As Abram slept, God, as a pillar of fire, passed down the aisle, thereby creating a one-sided covenant. Through God's love of Abram, if Abram breaks the covenant, only God, and not Abram, could be broken into pieces—the ultimate unconditional love!! It seems more than we mortals can comprehend.

Now, I've always thought of a covenant as a binding agreement or a contract with consequences to either of the parties for breaking it. Indeed, the Old Testament further includes conditional covenants between God and man, which seem to have evolved into a combination of love and law in our relationships in order to achieve balance between the two. Because God gave us the original covenants, I now tend to see them as sacred. In our search for a closer relationship with our Creator, we bind and commit ourselves to our co-seekers, the members of our church, the church itself, to support and care for and about one another, and thus connect with all seekers. If that covenant is broken on either side, we lose something important, and both sides will suffer for it. It would be akin to chopping up the spirit of God, whose unconditional love set for us the ultimate example of covenant to the extent that He became a man and subjected Himself to pain, torture, and suffering on the cross, but not before he gave us a what He called a New Covenant in His blood at the Last Supper. (Luke 22:20). We honor that sacred gift by ever striving to be more God-like and better Christians.

I believe this time of pandemic-related physical separation calls for renewal of our covenant and connection with one another. In the last year, we have been through turbulent times in our lives, in our church, and in our nation. It seems like a good time to begin to restore balance. To that end, your Church Council has embarked upon a mission to make personal contact with each of our congregants, to share how we each are doing and coping, to learn more about each other, and to see whether there are needs that we might be able to help with.

For this brief essay on the weighty topic of covenant, I need to acknowledge the information, insight, and inspiration I received from a variety of sources, including friends, a fellow moderator in the RMC from the Western Slope, and the website Bible Gateway. May God bless us all in our journey together and may all of our efforts please Him.

I miss you all. Stay safe and be well in body, mind, and spirit.
Kathy Roman, Moderator

YOUTUBE WORSHIP

Live at 9:00am (MST)

Our YouTube worship is always happening! [CUCC Buena Vista CO](#)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR!

Sundays, about 9:45am (right after worship)

Join us on [Zoom](#) for social time! Yippee!!! (click on [Zoom](#) or see any weekly email blast for [link](#))

PASTOR'S ARTICLE, December, 2020

A church in Atlanta was honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. After a warm welcome and introduction of this speaker and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high-backed chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly began to speak.

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me...

The only thing that would comfort was this verse:

Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
We are weak but He is strong.

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me" (Author Unknown)

JESUS LOVES ME
Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(chorus)
YES, JESUS LOVES ME. YES, JESUS LOVES ME.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME. THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

Blessings as we begin Advent and look toward Christmas, sheltering in place. Apart physically, but together spiritually, in the loving embrace of Jesus. 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



October 23, 2020 on the porch of Brookshire House—33 degrees!

ROGER CASON

The photos below and to the right were taken on Roger's 82nd birthday on October 6.



BILL & CAROLE DOWNES

CUCC,

Please remove us from your church's Registry as of this date (Sept. 20) as we have moved back to our 160-acre ranch at Council Grove, Kansas that we have owned since 1980.

We moved to Buena Vista in 1990 and lived there for 16 years. We enjoyed our time in Buena Vista and enjoyed our connection with your fine church and its people.

We have recently sold all of our Buena Vista properties and henceforth don't have any connection with Buena Vista at this time.

At our age of 82, doubt if we will be coming back anytime, even for a visit. *But we will have many great memories of our association with the church. We THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!*

Bill and Carole Downes
1770 South 1450 Rd.
Council Grove, KS 66846

Bill's cell: 785-466-3391 Carole's cell: 785-477-9772
wcdownes@hotmail.com

LINDA SWANSON

Hi All!

Am doing fine (but do not go out much). Hope everyone else is too. Please find a check enclosed for stamps.

Stay safe -
Love,
Linda Swanson



**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

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

December 1—Teresa Roorda
December 2—Doyle Nyberg
December 7—Corey Tucker
December 10—Christopher Colvin
December 12—Daniel Daugherty
December 12—Dennis Daugherty
December 21—Norm Holloway
December 24—Jean Buster
December 25—Noel Ekin
December 26—Betty Gwynn
December 29—Marge Erickson
December 30—Paula Dylan

ANNIVERSARIES

December 10—Carl & Liz Hansen
December 19—Bob & Gynette Smith
December 20—Les & Mary Messamer
December 21—Frank & Linda Carpenter
December 31—Elvin & Pat Benton



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
Pam Hughes—Healing
Shirl Holloway—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
Ed Simons (Rebecca Poos' brother-in-law)—Healing
Pat & Jim Driskel (aunt & uncle of Doyle and Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
Jim Padgett (Edie's husband)—Healing
The Family of Tyler Reed (relative of Linda Rak)—Comfort
Delores Oltman (Linda Rak's mother)—Healing
The Family of Jean Brody—Comfort
Rita Haines—Healing



CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS

BACKPACK PROGRAM

- A change to what is needed!



A change! A change! Instead of shelf-stable milk and prepared meals, the program is requesting tuna, Chef Boyardee items, and juice boxes. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Always welcome:

Tuna — Chef Boyardee

Juice Boxes — Fruit Cups

Pudding Cups — Granola or Cereal Bars

CARTER BUTTS

Carter Butts died in his sleep surrounded by his family on October 6, 2020.

LA PUENTE BAG DELIVERY



My daughter Rhonda Funston and I delivered 25 hygiene bags, plus one of miscellaneous extra items, to La Puente in Alamosa. It was a nice day for a drive. Rhonda rang the doorbell and an attendant came out to help carry the bags in. She was very pleased to get them. Thank you so much for your generous contributions!

La Puente was handing out Styrofoam boxes containing meals to all who rang the doorbell.

We had lunch with my sister and niece, so it was a very special day.

VirJeanne Williams

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

We met in the Fellowship Hall on November 19 to turn in our 'Blessing Box' money. We each shared the blessings we have received this year, despite the restrictions of the Covid-19. It was great to see, in person, the beloved faces of our members. I would encourage anyone that still wishes to turn in their blessing money to send or drop off in the office a check made out to "WMS".

The only officer WMS will have for next year will be our Treasurer, Kay Allinger. Perhaps we will be able to resume meetings at some point in 2021 and would be able to reschedule the speakers from 2020. Please continue your membership with us, a mere \$2 for an entire year (such a deal).

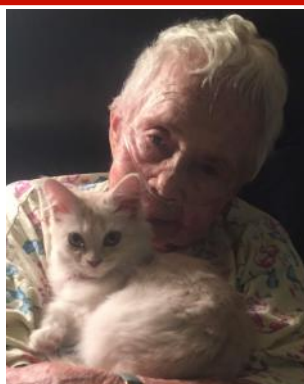
"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Merilee Daugherty, President



View from the Mountain

“MY ANGEL”



Every Wednesday morning around 7:00am, a medical lab man named Milas comes to my apartment to draw my blood. He has come—same man, same day, same time, for at least two and half years to keep a close eye on a lung condition. Needless to say we have become very good friends.

But this story is not about me. It’s about my very attached cat named Sugar, or Sug. She is a diva if I ever saw one, moody, opinionated, the runt of the litter. Her breed is Siberian Forest Cat. She is quite picky about her food and plays like a wild feline. But her most prominent trait is how quickly she decided I was truly her mother.

I mean, I absolutely cannot take a step without her. Whether I am making the bed, doing hand-wash in the sink, washing my hair, cleaning or writing a column, or anything I do as routine, she is right there. One thing she does that literally drives me bonkers is when she attacks when I am using my scissors to cut out my weekly column so I can put it in my notebook for future reference. I do not know which one she loves more, the big scissors or the Scotch tape.

The scissors scare me, but you should see my long-haired white cat after she grabs the tape and rolls in it. Oh Lord, just imagine the scene. Sug is absolutely filled with joy the more she is stuck together with rounds of her tape. But you still have not heard the rest of the story. She seems to know when she is sufficiently stuck together, so where does she go next? Yup, the litter box. And what does she do in the liter box? Yup, she rolls some more.

You may ask, “Why does Jean not stop this nightmare?” Well, I can tell you why not. My unorthodox sense of humor has me besides myself with laughter. As awful as the situation is, without a doubt it’s the funniest thing I’ve ever seen, and she thinks so too.

I hope I have painted how she looks and what she does, but the most revealing thing I can tell you about Sug is the following. Sure enough—Milas knocked on my door at 7:00am to draw my blood. Sugar was snoozing on the wide leather arm of my chair, and Milas stood beside me to work. Nothing was disturbing my little kitty until Milas slipped his needle out and headed for my arm. The very second that big needle touched my arm, Sug sprang to life and I swear to you, she let out a blood curdling feline scream that parallels the wild scream of Bonny and Clyde, the bobcats at Tyson Research where I used to work.

Her scream stunned both me and Milas, and we talked about it afterwards. Here is what we believe happened. She is so physically and emotionally attached to me that she seems to feel everything I feel. We believe that she was literally feeling my pain of the blood draw, while I had zero pain of my own. After her scream, she ran towards Milas and the needle, but stopped when she saw I was fine.

This could explain why my Siberian Forest Cat follows my every step just so she could literally take my pain. In fact, one time I got a stomachache and couldn’t eat, and do you know she would not eat one thing all day So I guess this started that day. I just didn’t put it all together. I am one blessed person to have such an angel to take such care of me, don’tcha think?

The view from the mountain is wondrous! *Jean Brody*

Our dear angel Jean Brody peacefully passed into the angels' arms on November 18.

Jean wrote several books' worth of articles. We will continue to publish them until we run out.
Or the sun goes supernova, whichever comes first. :)



KUDOS COLUMN

Many thanks to Treasurers Lloyd Martinez and Judy Hassell, Financial Secretary Kay Allinger, and the whole Finance Team for the hard work they do behind the scenes keeping us strong and solvent this year and always!

And thanks, too, to all of the Staff who have remained faithful, flexible, and hardworking during these unusual times.

Our gratitude also goes to the Worship Team(s) and music leaders for doing “double duty” in so many ways, keeping a vital worship life at CUCC!



A MESSAGE FROM NAN BOHE

Nov. 14, 2020

My Dear Rebecca,

Last night at bedtime, I received the copy of the “Listening” results and your Sunday Sermon, written before election results.

I thought the “Listening” results were very well compiled and show all of us we need to stop pointing fingers and begin to work together with understanding and a willingness to compromise with each other, with the good health of the church uppermost in our hearts.

Your Sunday sermon (“The Seven Virgins”) was a great reminder that all people, regardless of ethnicity or loyalties are equally important in God’s eye and we need to go forward with the good of all in our hearts & actions.

With the outcome of the election known, I think we now have the correct leadership in place to move forward. I don’t believe change will happen overnight, but can only say—thank God for the outcome of the election. Now, much healing needs to take place in our nation and in our church family.

You are all in my heart and prayers in your struggle for healing in our church family.

May God bless you, Rebecca, and all of our great church family as you go forward toward a greater unity with, and acceptance of, my beloved church family—

With love for you always,
Nan Bohe

RMC CONNECTIONS—meet DAVID BRISTOW

Hi Rev Rebecca Kemper Poos and Kathy Roman,

I’m your representative to the Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Directors. At the board meetings, each association representative provides a status of the ongoing efforts of churches in their association. To that end, on your behalf I’d like to report your answers to the following questions:

Q: How you are you conducting your Sunday services? i.e. streaming, prerecorded, Zoom, in-person, or in-person plus Zoom.

A: We have been pre-recording on our very own YouTube channel, CUCC Buena Vista CO, since Easter and will continue Forever. :)

In mid-August we started outdoor, distanced and masked worship outside the sanctuary (BYO lawnchair) with the pianist able to play live music because the double doors to the sanctuary are right by the piano. :) I preached the same sermon live that was on the air. We averaged about 30-35 those several weeks.

In late October we went indoors. We have a Strategic Planning Team that works diligently on all matters of safety, spacing, airflow, and communications. Indoor services were a “Watch Party” with piano music, a live welcome and sharing of joys and concerns, and a live benediction and sending forth. In the middle, we showed the recorded service from YouTube on the screens in the sanctuary—humming along to the hymns, etc. Sunday, Nov. 15, was the last Sunday for that, and we closed the building for worship, adult education, and several other gatherings.

We continue to create community and ‘Widen the Circle’ via safe practices and reaching out in every way we can:

~Coffee Hour on Zoom after worship has gathered people from all over the country each week, except for when we suspended it during the time we held outdoor services.

~Our women’s book club has met since March on Zoom each week and is also expanding our circle to women in other faith traditions and geographic locations.

~Council and Team meetings have mostly been on Zoom.

~Adult Education has been in person and distanced until recently, and now is on Zoom for the winter.

Q: How is your congregation coping?

A: It has been hard, of course, as this congregation thrives on personal gathering and connecting. We have worked to help the elderly and other non-tech-savvy to feel comfortable with the YouTube Worship and Zoom coffee hours. Still working on that!

Having to cancel the Bazaar (94 years!), Easter in-person service, and other major yearly events has left folks feeling sad and detached from the church.

People have endeavored to come alongside the pastor for pastoral care: to call others in the congregation, set up a Buddy System, send cards and emails, do porch visits as able, offer to pick up groceries, etc.

Office admin has worked with the pastor to send out more frequent email blasts with news and prayers and concerns, as well as many hard copy communications (notes, sermons, newsletters), so no one is out of the loop if they don’t have email or computer access.

Q: How you are doing financially? Keeping up, doing better, doing worse?

A: We are doing surprisingly well in this area. We did get the UCC Grant (\$1500) to help with tech upgrades, and are using some memorial donations and borrowed equipment to address those increased needs. Donations have remained strong, even from people not here geographically, and that has kept the church at about the same contribution level as last year.

We are down in expenses, especially utilities, due to reduced meetings, programs, etc., and the pastor and other congregants have been able to take advantage of nationwide Zoom opportunities for education and meetings.

We are down slightly in donations from user groups due to the building closure, but even some of those groups have tried to remain faithful and supportive.

We have continued all salaries for employees, even as the workload has fluctuated. This is the right thing to do and a “faithful response to faithful people” in our thinking.

Q: How can the RMC help?

A: The RMC has helped us more than we can ever repay in this difficult year. We were in a conflict situation and Erin Gilmore brought a Listening Team and worked with us for countless hours for months. We are trying to give an additional OCWM gift this year in response that is a small token of our appreciation for invaluable help.

Daryl and the RMC team helped us with getting our online giving set up, too—invaluable help. Other pastors have shared resources and ideas, as well—great mutual resourcing about COVID, online worship, and racism. The clergy-connect calls and constant resources and communications from Sue Artt and the Board have also been invaluable. Our decisions about closing, opening, closing, and all things COVID have been hugely helped by this RMC support. THANK YOU!!!

Pastor Rebecca has been able to give and receive support and information in priceless ways throughout COVID.

The Annual Celebration was better attended by CUCC than ever before. We learned a great deal from those sessions and keynotes and appreciated being able to share them later with those who missed.

The RMC worship services are also a huge help! The RMC office has worked with our tech people in vital ways to help us be able to broadcast on our channel—another more-complicated-than-people-know piece of the puzzle.

Our ability to connect with the SEA more fully is also a gift. We attended and supported our dear Mallory Everhart’s EC and attended the SEA annual meeting more fully than in the past. People have stepped up to serve in the association as a result.

One easy way to help would be for anyone and everyone to SUBSCRIBE to our channel! If we get 100 or more subscribers, we can do much more outreach with our worship and building community in a wider way. Please help by spreading the word!

CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID LOCKDOWN BINGO!

PRIZES

Remember that we promised you prizes? Well, we didn’t forget!

Turn or mail in your bingo cards by December 20 and then get ready for the biggest, best, most incredible prizes of your life! - Ha ha. You know better than that. But there will be some sort of prizes, and some of them are actually pretty good! :) (And no, none of them are CUCC coasters.)

Drop off your cards at the church or mail to CUCC, PO Box 610, Buena Vista, CO 81211-0610.

ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

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

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

RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

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

The CUCC website, www.bvcucc.org/resources, 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

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).

BE IN THE KNOW!

- ◆ Copies of Sunday messages can be found in the file box outside the pastor’s office door or received in the mail or via email.
- ◆ 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.*



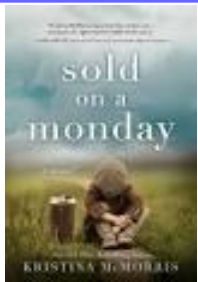
PASTORAL CARE TECH SUPPORT!

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

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

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

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



TELLS
Tuesday Evening
Ladies
Literary Society
Tuesdays, 7:00pm MST
via Zoom
All women are welcome!



The group is reading
"Sold On a Monday" by Kristina McMorris.

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

GLORIA
The Greater Arkansas Valley Chamber Choir
and Orchestra present
A Christmas Concert
Friday, December 11, 7:00pm MST
Streamed LIVE at www.clearviewcommunity.org
FREE!
Support Pastor Rebecca & Friends!

Featuring:
"Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi,
"Somewhere in my Memory"
by John Williams,
"Winter Wonderland"
by Felix Bernard,
"Hallelujah Chorus" from Messiah,
and other holiday classics!



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTIAN MISSION IN NEED OF FOOD —but **NOT** peanut butter!

The Arkansas Valley Christian Mission continues to help those in need in our local community. Your donation of the following is greatly, greatly appreciated!

*toiletries *cereal *coffee (regular) *jelly (not grape) *toilet paper
*paper towels *relishes/condiments (catsup, mustard, pickle relish) *honey
CASH IS ALWAYS WELCOME

"CHOICES" PEER RECOVERY COACH TRAINING

January 7, 8, 9 & 15, 16
9:00am—4:00pm MST

First Presbyterian Church, 299 McWethy Drive, Leadville

CHOICES is an intensive 5-day training for those who want to learn how to better engage with family and friends who may be struggling with addiction to alcohol or drugs. Trainers from Embark/PCA Colorado will guide participants to harness the power of their life experience and learn the skills to become an effective and ethical recovery coach. Participants will gain a strong foundation of the roles of a peer recovery coach and how the roles are different from other traditional and existing support methods. They will be introduced to the many concepts and skills involved in recovery coaching, preparing them to serve their communities as peer support advocates.

This NAADAC approved training provides 30 CEs, and because of a grant is offered to you at NO CHARGE. Motel rooms for out-of-towners will also be offered at no-charge to you.

Contact Mike Orrill at 719-221-5418 or morrill@chaffeecounty.org.



CHAFFEE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Join the Habitat for Humanity Advent Calendar Fundraiser this holiday season! Follow each day's prompt for a fun way to donate towards affordable housing in Chaffee County. You can pick up your calendar at the church to start following along after Thanksgiving.

For questions about the calendar or getting involved with Habitat for Humanity, contact Annabeth Gullo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 719-453-0773 or annabeth@chaffeehabitat.org.

CUCC CIRCLE GROWS WIDER!

"Happiness is a cup of coffee shared with a Friend."

"Rebecca—Thank you for your thoughtful service. You make me feel so welcome. I so look forward to your words to live by and coffee hour contact. Jo does too! ~Judi Beran"

(—Judi worships with us from Texas and loves our weekly Zoom Coffee Hour, so she can connect with BV friends all year long!)

"Rebecca—Thanks again for meeting with Ana, Carolyn, and me. We appreciate the time that you took out of your day to answer the questions we had. I wanted to also thank you for your messages in your sermons. This [check] is not much, but I wanted to help support your ministry & the church. God Bless You & Keep You. Sincerely, Sarah Griffin" —Lakewood, CO

RESTORATION BAG EVENT

A bag packing event will be held at CUCC in 2021.
The date is to be determined and will be advertised when it is known.

Human trafficking has long been a problem throughout the world but has been increasing because of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders. Not only are families becoming more financially desperate and turning to risky money-making opportunities, but people cannot go to brothels and strip clubs, so they have the girls and boys brought to them instead or watch pornography on-line. This has caused a rise in trafficking, but there has also been a rise in awareness. We are seeing more people rescued from labor and sex trafficking and they need help.

One way we can help is by providing comfort and dignity at the time of their rescue. BV HOPE (bvhope.org) partners with Restore Innocence (restoreinnocence.org) to deliver bags full of much-needed items to the FBI who gives them to newly rescued trafficking survivors. Lists of items needed for each bag are posted in the CUCC narthex. The lists are very specific. It works best to partner with a friend to buy the whole content so we don't end up with a lot of partially empty bags.

Thank you so much for helping with this project! It is so needed and is a tangible way we can help those who have been suffering through trafficking.

Beth Ritchie, director of BV HOPE



CUCC REPORTS

Stewardship/Visioning Team News

The Team met by having individual phone calls in October.

All team members agreed to serve on the team for 2021, including chairman Bob Stocker. We invite all interested congregants to join us.

Bob Stocker, Chair

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

We continue on LED lighting upgrades and the venting in the back rooms. The mandated back flow preventer cost \$995, which was unforeseen and therefore had not been budgeted for.

Ron Hassell, Chair

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

The Team encourages everyone to participate in Conversations That Matter, which is currently studying "LEARNING HOW TO SEE," a class based on a podcast from the Center for Action and Contemplation, featuring Richard Rohr, Brian McClaren, and Jacqui Lewis.

The podcast can be found at CAC.org under podcasts, LEARNING HOW TO SEE. Please join us on Zoom on Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm. Please email to cucc.conversations@icloud.com to be put on the list for Zoom info. We will be exploring the podcasts until the middle of December.

Betsy Neas, Chair

Worship Team

Because of COVID-19, this Christmas we are doing something different. We will be calling shut-ins and connecting over the phone to sing or just ask about their favorite Christmas songs. We miss not being able to see everyone since the Church is now closed.

We are also sending Christmas cards to members of the church as a way to stay in touch with everyone. We want our church family to know we are thinking of them and want to stay connected.

Continue to collect pictures and articles for the 140th anniversary of the church and we will have a celebration next year.

Have a safe and healthy Christmas with your family.

Linda Rak, Chair

Outreach/Community & World Team News—December greetings! SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER—Good loves a cheerful giver. *II Corinthians 9:7b*

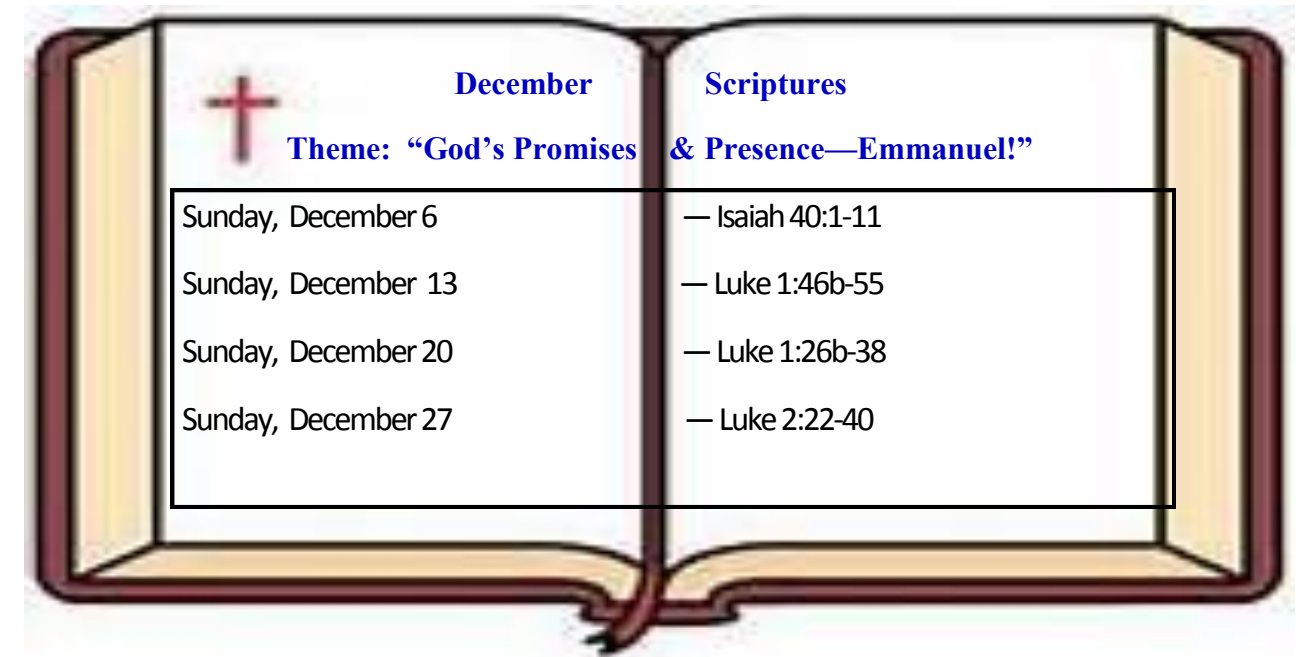
The outlook for Christmas may look pretty gloomy this year. Because of the COVID virus, many of us will not be able to spend time with family and friends, but remember the old adage: The best way to cheer yourself up is by helping others.

There is no shortage of ways to help. CUCC has been helping the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission for many years. Currently the mission is in need of: toiletries, cereal, regular coffee, condiments (mustard, ketchup, relish), honey, jelly (except for grape), toilet paper, and paper towels. No peanut butter at this time, please! Although these items don't feel very festive, if you didn't have them and you received them, you'd probably feel pretty thankful! Bowie's fancy box for donations in the church narthex is waiting!

If you're feeling more festive, how about this? Each Christmas the mission puts together Holiday Food Boxes for families in the community. What they need most now are hams and turkeys. The Outreach Team is collecting donations toward the purchase of these. Bring your donations to the church and place them in the designated box or mail checks to CUCC, PO Box 610, Buena Vista, CO 81211. Put "Outreach Team—Mission hams & turkeys" in the memo line. The more we collect, the more Christmas Cheer we will be able to spread!

Ellen Kely

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



DID YOU KNOW? 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!

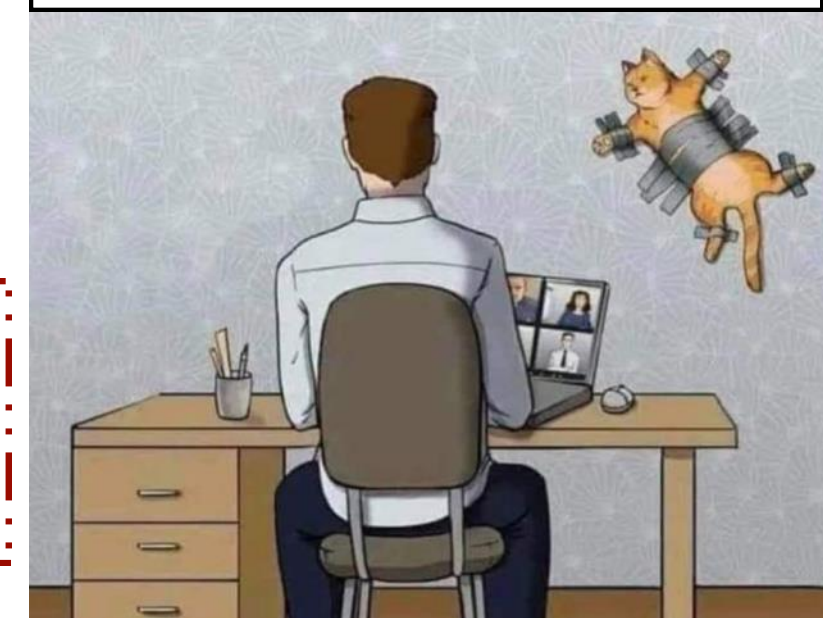
CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER Sundays, 4:00pm MST via Zoom

We are studying [Learning How to See](#), a podcast that helps us see how our biases influence our reality. The series includes Richard Rohr, Brian McClaren, and Jacqui Lewis.

Questions or comments can be sent to:
cucc.conversations@icloud.com

We hope you will join us!

It is essential to properly prepare for a Zoom meeting.



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!

CUCC Council Minutes - November 18, 2020

7:05pm 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, Judy Hassell, Ron Hassell, Betsy Neas, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bill Waldorf

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

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the September 27 Congregational Meeting, October 21 Council Meeting, and November 4 Special Council Meeting were presented for corrections. None were noted; all were approved and filed.

Clerk's Report: Ron noted the recent November 18 passing of Jean Brody. Kathy mentioned that while reviewing the 'connection' calling list, she noticed Janie Trainor's name. Kathy noted that Janie is deceased and that the record needs to be updated. Records were updated.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Treasurer Lloyd Martinez, Kathy asked Finance and Budget Team Chair Bill Waldorf for the budget status. Available computer data and recollection by Financial Secretary Kay Allinger gave a consensus that the budget was in better shape than expected for this time of year. Bill reported that he was working with Treasurer Lloyd Martinez in an effort to increase the efficiency of the financial reporting process, to reduce the complexity of the reports presented to Council, and to more fully integrate the efforts of Assistant Treasurer Judy Hassell. Lloyd has found the position of Treasurer to be more time consuming than he initially thought, and that timely delivery of financial reports to Council has been difficult considering the demands of his accountancy practice, yet it is believed that changes to the process should all alleviate these concerns.

Team Budgets for 2021: Bill reminded team chairs who haven't submitted their team budgets for 2021 to do so as soon as possible, so that a preliminary budget can be prepared for Council approval prior to the end of the year.

Moderator's Report: Kathy Roman confirmed that the RMC Listening Team Report in its final form was mailed to all congregants on November 6, with special thanks to Bowie Duncan and Betsy Neas for assisting Office Communications Administrator Nancy Best in preparing the mailing. Kathy also reported that the application to the IRS to change Judy Phelps' status from independent contractor to employee was completed and mailed on October 28. Special thanks to Judy Hassell for volunteering to chair the Nominating Committee for determining the 2021 slate of church officers and team members. She reported that almost all team positions for 2021 are filled, with the immediate need being a Vice Moderator, and one Finance Team member. Thanks to Arlene Waldorf for getting us started on the Listening Team's recommendation of building and restoring relationships by making personal contacts with congregants via phone, notes, etc. Kudos also to Ron Hassell for his continuing work of upgrading all light fixtures to LED bulbs for energy efficiency.

RMC Moderators Meeting: Kathy confirmed her intent to participate in the November 19 virtual meeting of conference moderators.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Team: Mark Wolters informed everyone that the church is officially closed until further notice due to the COVID virus situation, except for three groups: Al-Anon, AA, and Boy Scouts may continue indoor meetings. WMS will also be allowed to meet on November 19 as previously planned. The planned December 1 League of Women Voters' Holiday Poinsettia Distribution will be allowed, since it will only require storage of the plants indoors and two persons to provide 'curb service' pick-ups in the parking lot. In order to facilitate and improve team meetings, Rebecca offered to help set up Zoom virtual meetings as needed. Indoor repairs and improvements in audio-visual equipment are allowed to continue as usual.

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Outreach Team:—Helen Duncan. Outreach will continue as reported in the Newsletter article. No questions presented.

Facilities Team:—Ron Hassell. Ron confirmed that sound and video improvements were proceeding. The Facilities budget will be exceeded for the year due to an unexpected new city requirement of a water supply backflow preventer costing almost \$1,000. Money will be transferred from Reserves to cover the cost.

Worship Team:—Linda Rak. Linda added that a special purpose committee is being formed to provide Christmas card greetings to selected church members. Consideration is also being given to weather-permitting outdoor gatherings at the church during the Christmas season, which could include caroling and special holiday greetings. The time for the Sunday Zoom Coffee Hour normally held right after the Sunday service was discussed. It was agreed to continue the YouTube service at 9:00am, followed by the Coffee Hour at 9:45am.

NEW BUSINESS

Payment of Employees during the November-December closure: Discussion was conducted on options for continued work and services by the Pianist and Custodian through the end of the year. It was agreed outright that both employees must be paid until the end of the year, and in compassionate discussion it was amended that they should be paid until January 31, whereby the 2021 Council can make a more informed decision at that time. **Pianist:** Discussions will be held with Judy Phelps to

consider recording music/video pieces for the Sunday YouTube services in sessions prior to the Sunday services, either at the church or at Matthew's studio. **Custodian:** Council asked Facilities Team Chair Ron Hassell to try to find additional indoor church work (deep cleaning, cleaning of other areas, such as boiler rooms, closets, etc., that he could do during this building shutdown. *Merilee moved/Betsy seconded to pay both Judy Phelps and Leonard Nyberg until January 31, 2021, with the new Council to consider paying them after that date. Motion passed.*

Personal Calling Sessions: Bill and Betsy related their experiences with the planned personal calls to congregation members. Consensus was that the majority of calls were well received and that recipients would welcome follow-up calls. Some calls indicated that there are personal care needs of members that could be provided by the congregation (such as respite time for caregivers, more frequent personal contact), and we should respond to those needs. Regarding answering specific questions on resolving the conflict issues in the church, the best answer may be that "it's just going to take a long time to resolve."

As part of the discussion, Rebecca suggested that we pay attention to what is bubbling up in these conversations and see what people are looking for in being part of a church—what "Be the Church" means to those in our circle and beyond our circle that we are trying to reach; that is, some look for comfort in their faith, fellowship and support, opportunities to serve in mission, and to be challenged toward growth in their insights and faith journey. Some hope for the church to have a prophetic, inclusive message in the community, and some look for all of the above! She suggested we should all read the Pastor's Article in the November Newsletter, which features a quote by Rev. Cameron Trimble about how our politics and our theology/ understanding of God work together in our worldview and way of being in the world as Christians. Do we believe this? Let's discuss! How do we, CUCC, want to "Be the Church" in these times in our culture? What are the core values of our congregation? What unites us in mission and purpose? What can we agree on together as we move forward into God's vision for CUCC—even across the social and political spectrum and many varying expectations of church, pastor, and congregation?

Perhaps if we were to just work on rebuilding relationships for the next six months it may lead to results in building trust and unity. It was agreed that we must continue making the personal calls or send an occasional personal greeting card. We agreed to keep having 'brave conversations,' listening to the Spirit and one another, considering our vision, and building and rebuilding relationships as the primary focus. As Erin Gilmore reminded us: "Vision comes out of relationships. Relationship is Revolutionary!"

PRAYER CONCERNS/UPDATES: Rebecca opened the floor to prayer concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Wolters closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.

NEXT COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING is scheduled for December 2, 7:00pm.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

