

**Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Sunday Worship Schedule
9:00am MST and anytime on YouTube
CUCCBuenaVistaCO

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
April, 2021



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

The Church Council has decided on three focus areas this year, Extravagant Welcome, Education, and Mission. In the March newsletter I stated Council is endeavoring to re-center on our Mission and Ministry role. You may be asking yourselves, what does that mean? What does it look like?

The origin of the word mission came in the mid-sixteenth-century denoting sending the Holy Spirit into the world. There are three definitions of mission I would like to examine.

1. "The vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith." The Bible exhorts us to go out and spread the good word of Jesus, to make disciples of all people. Many have taken up this call and served all over the world to help bring people out of poverty, uphold the dignity of the people, bringing the Word of God. At times the bringing of the faith has been destructive and resulted in subjugation and death to those who chose not to conform to the beliefs being espoused. The Crusades, Inquisition and work with Native Americans gave Christianity a black eye.
2. "An important assignment carried out for religious purposes, typically involving travel." We have sent our youth out to serve others in Alaska, California, and Puerto Rico. The summer before my junior year of high school, my youth group, nineteen of us, traveled in South America for a month. We were tourists in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador. Our service projects took place in Paraguay, where we stayed for two weeks. We traveled to a rural part of the country where we stayed for seven days, working with other youth native to the capitol, Asuncion. The people there shared their meager homes and food, even their outhouses and catalog pages. We attempted to level out the school yard so they could play soccer, among other activities. We then worked at their Christian youth camp for four days. Finally, we met with the youth in the capitol of Asuncion, participating in worship with them and working at their Mision de Amistad (friendship mission).
3. "A strongly felt aim, ambition, or calling." This is the definition on which I want to focus. This is mission we all take part in, whether we realize it or not. There are examples of physical labor, such as Habitat home building; support of one another by calling or visiting one another or sending greeting cards; providing soup and casseroles when someone is ill or recovering from surgery. Shopping for others and transporting them to appointments is mission. Some of you take charge of a mission project and encourage our support of that project. La Puente hygiene bags, the Backpack Program, the Ark Valley Christian Mission are just three examples of this.

Congregants who step up and assume a leadership role by serving on a Team or committee fill an important role. These are the ones who devote many hours seeking ways to guide our church and add meaning to our worship. The Facilities Team has been working to expand our capabilities to worship indoors and out, making us more eco-friendly with better choice of lighting, conforming us to fire safety measures. The Worship Team seeks ways to maintain contact with our congregation. In the last year they have delivered gifts for Father's and Mother's Days, held a drive-through cookie give away and an Imposition of Ashes. The Faith Education Team has provided relevant and thought-provoking on-line study for adults, delivers educational and fun projects to our children, and supports TELLS. Both Conversations that Matter and TELLS reach beyond our congregation to others around the country.

The Stewardship/Visioning Team is a driving force in taking what the Listening Team brought to us and shaping it to move us forward as a church. The Outreach Team supports a long list: Backpacks, Angelo in the Philippines, 5-for-5 donations to our denomination for distribution to those in need, and more. The Finance Team is constantly seeking ways to best use our financial resources.

Do none of the above feel like a fit for you to serve in mission? How about prayer, for yourself, friends, enemies, our country and world, God's creation? There is a place for all of us to serve.

"Optimism and hope are not the same. Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can *make* the world better." (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, quoted in TheBulwark.com.) Let us go forward in hope.

Blessings,
Merilee Daugherty, Moderator

PASTOR’S ARTICLE, April 2021

Happy Spring! Spring as only Colorado can do it so well—so fluffy, as the flakes come down and bury all the budding flowers and tree buds, giving the birds another challenge as they gratefully swarm the feeder! I’ve been pondering many things as this winter turns into spring, and the seasons turn in so many ways. The world is turning a corner, we hope, on the pandemic, as case numbers continue to go in the right direction (down!) and the vaccination records go up.

We are “coming to life again” as a people and as a congregation. We have never stopped “Being the Church” and many, many folks have worked endlessly behind the scenes with computers and recording equipment and financial and educational books, offices and buildings and grounds all year long. Thank you!! We are a blessed congregation to have so many incredibly dedicated leaders and participants, givers, supporters, and servers, indeed!

Our Council has been one of the hard-working groups, meeting even twice a month to explore together “Who are we, CUCC?” We have grappled with scripture passages, played with words and phrases and their meanings, and asked ourselves, “Why do we belong to a church and what is our calling together?” Here’s where we landed—for now!

Mission/Identity/Purpose statement (MIP)

As followers of Jesus, we are committed to exploring together Jesus’ teachings, his actions, and his justice, to better love, respect, and welcome all people.

Then, in order to “live into” this, the Council has identified three Focus Areas for all of us—pastor, lay-leaders, and congregation, to explore and prioritize in the coming year. You’ll be hearing more about all this in the coming months as we look at all our projects and endeavors in light of these Focus Areas.

Here, briefly, are my opening thoughts about these three areas for CUCC. We ask you to join in the thinking, exploring, pondering, and sharing of what they mean to you.

Extravagant Welcome

*Extravagant Welcome, to me, is going “beyond the Welcome Mat.” Looking at *every aspect* of what we do as church and how we do it with *deeper and wider-seeing eyes and hearts* and asking “who is truly and wholly included in our invitation?” Are all welcomed from various life and faith experiences as their whole, authentic selves, or do they have to leave who they are at the door?

* Inviting us all to walk together to deepen our spiritual lives and relationship with God. Praying together!

*”*Just in case*” – This is where we look at our facilities for accessibility of all kinds. Maybe widening doors or arranging our sanctuary differently, even when we don’t have anyone coming to church in a wheelchair. Or a handrail! I was so glad, back when we were looking to re-pave the broken and unsafe sidewalks, that someone raised their hand (Janet Jones?) and asked: “How about a handrail?” Thank goodness we decided to install it! I can’t tell you how many times it’s been needed (even by the pastor!) “Just in case” means staffing the nursery with a person there ready to welcome children—the lights and heat on, a smiling face and embracing arms.

*What’s our “messaging” to folks unsure about church? Signs and banners that give a truly welcoming message. All the “regulars” seeing themselves as hosts to our honored guests. A person to stand at the door and meet people halfway up the sidewalk and guide them in.

Mission

Mission is our “*why*.” Our Purpose. Both in-reach and outreach in the congregation and our community. It’s so much more than a particular committee, project, or branch of the church. Our mission overlaps with both of the other foci—when we care for folks, both inside and outside the congregation, and help people with their spiritual and physical, emotional and social lives, we extend extravagant welcome. We educate ourselves and others on acceptance and understanding, embracing *all* God’s beloved children and all our neighbors.

(See Merilee’s outstanding article on mission.)

Education

*Lifelong learning in Faith. All we’re doing already and more! Talking about things that matter, in our current world, in light of our faith and understanding of God, Jesus, and scripture. Learning to pray together with new spiritual practices, like our Lenten series this year with Grace Church.

*Understanding scripture more fully, applying it to our lives. Exploring countless faith education opportunities before us, including with Grace Church and classes across the country!

*What education would *you* like to see happen at CUCC? A Basic Bible Study? Class on Jesus’ Parables? Sermon on the Mount? The Heart of Christianity?

We do so many of these things already and are excited to explore what more can be done! It’s a new season at CUCC, and we look forward to all the new and renewing gatherings and souls that Spirit plans to bring us!

Blessings, Rebecca

CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

DORIS WESTERLUND NEWS

Doris’s daughter and son-in-law Sue and Jack Stanek have moved closer to where Doris is living. Doris has more difficulty figuring things out and comprehending, but she still walks quite well, using her walker for stability. She goes to activities twice a week - music, art, crafts, bunco, and cooking and baking. It’s a very nice place to live and has things she enjoys to keep her occupied. She knits scarfs for gifts and is looking forward to spring and warmer weather after their extremely cold winter. Sue sees her twice a week as their schedule allows. Yes, she has had her two shots.

New address: Doris Westerlund
% Sue Stanek
8045 183rd St. W
Lakeville, MN 55044

NEW JOAN WILDER ADDRESS

29531 CR 372A
Buena Vista, CO 81211

NEW MEARDON ADDRESS

Tom & Millie Meardon
813 Evergreen Place
La Junta, CO 81050

DAUGHERTY MAILING ADDRESS (no more po box)

Herb & Merilee Daugherty
27665 CR 313, #30
Buena Vista, CO 81211

VENARD PHONE NUMBER

Gerry & Jean Venard no longer have a land line. Please call them using Gerry’s cell number: 719-966-9524.

NEW HABECK ADDRESS

Lucille Habeck
946 Wiggins Pkwy.
#1215
Mesquite, TX 75150

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



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.

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.*

Part of our church family who would
enjoy Prayers, Cards, or perhaps a Visit

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

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
813 Evergreen Place, La Junta, CO 81050

Gail Moffat (719) 398-3030
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 (719) 966-9524
3377 Mill Vista Road, Unit #3205
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Doris Westerlund
c/o Sue Stanek, 8045 183rd St. W
Lakeville, MN 55044

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

April 2—Zach Dylan
April 2—Sam Dylan
April 2—Shirley Montgomery
April 4—Marcille Drake
April 4—Mark Wolters
April 8—David Long
April 9—Helen Duncan
April 11—Lesley Fagerberg
April 18—Bob Frykholm
April 24—Silas Westendorf

ANNIVERSARIES

April 24—Gerry and Jean Venard



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

Please Remember in Your Prayers

The Friends of Karen Bowers—Comfort
The Family of Bonnie Guenther—Comfort
The Family of Jim Price—Comfort - He served
CUCC as Pastor 2002-2004.
Joan Wilder—Healing
Roger Cason—Healing
Nan Bohe—Healing
Sarah Struthers—Healing
Pam Hughes—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
Pat & Jim Driskel (aunt & uncle of Doyle and Leonard
Nyberg)—Healing
Betty Gwynn—Healing
Friend of Barb Wilder—Healing
Julia Munson (sister-in-law of Adele Jackson)—Healing
Charlotte Smith—Healing
The Family of Tom Vidmar (Doyle Nyberg's former boss)—
Comfort
Dick Harvey (friend of Kathy Roman)—Healing
Linda Rak—Healing
Flora (Carla Hansford's mother-in-law)—Healing
Consuelo Arriola (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Gail Moffatt—Healing
Bill Waldorf—Healing



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Our lives have been enriched by the recent Guided Meditations during the Reflections on Prayer and Healing Lenten Services. Thank you, Pastors Rebecca and Catherine. The times together were a blessing.

We're continuing to fill the La Puente Hygiene bags with our donations of any of the following items: bath towels, wash cloths, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body lotion, razors, combs and brushes, nail files, COVID facial coverings, and feminine hygiene products. Financial donations are also helpful, as it enables the purchase of any missing items for the bags. Your donations can be put in the center section of the wooden box in the narthex. These bags will be delivered to homeless shelter in Alamosa operated by La Puente. **The deadline for donations is April 16.** Our appreciation to Rhonda Funston and VirJeanne Williams for coordinating this mission effort.

As we leave behind the past year of disorder, fear, and isolation, let us look with eyes of compassion at the world around us and give ourselves over even more to being God's people, living in hope and love. We await
Spring Easter Resurrection!

May the blessings of New Life in Christ be yours!
Marge Erickson, WMS President

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT CUCC

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT CUCC
March 28-April 4

***Palm Sunday, March 28, 9:00am** — Worship with us on CUCC's YouTube channel ([CUCCBuenaVistaCO](#)) and wave your branches from home! "Which Parade Wave?" - Mark 11:1-11

***Maundy Thursday, April 1** — Join a sister church in worship, somewhere in the world! We will share links here in Monday's email blast or feel free to google your favorite sister church.

Click [here](#) for "Maundy Thursday at Home."

***Good Friday, April 2, 2:00pm** — "Stations of the Cross Worship" at Grace Church, 203 W. Main St., BV. Join us in person! Please wear a mask. Chairs will be scattered throughout for your use. RSVP if possible.



Stations of the Cross is an ancient devotional practice that commemorates the passion of Christ. Pilgrims from all over the world and different faith traditions have gathered wherever they are to journey with Jesus. Christians have embraced this moving prayer service for its powerful ability to reintroduce us to the reality of Christ's abiding presence in our lives. We join together with Grace Church to re-enact the stations and walk them with the spiritual goal of learning how to imitate Christ's love-filled walk through darkness into light to find everlasting hope.

Click [here](#) for "Good Friday at Home."

***Easter Sunday, April 4, 9:00am** — Worship online with us on CUCC's YouTube channel ([CUCCBuenaVistaCO](#)) to Celebrate the Resurrection with Communion!

Click [here](#) for "Easter Sunday at Home."



view from the Mountain



“EMBARRASSMENT”

Way back in 1993 during a sermon in my parent’s church, the minister spoke of embarrassment. He told of the day, just as he was stepping into the shower, his dog Stormy barked to come inside. He loosely wrapped a small towel around himself and left to let the dog in. As he opened the door, a large burly workman stood just a few feet away in the door and the minister, always mannerly, said, “Hello!” The workman smiled and boomed, “Well ... Hello there!” Forgetting all about poor Stormy, the minister slunk behind the closed door, his face ablaze, and it brought back a painful memory for me.

In high school, I was on the swim team and at the meets I always got very nervous. Once, before an important meet housed at a competition school pool, I felt an urgent need to go to the girl’s bathroom which was situated alongside the boy’s bathroom, both were in full view of the stands of spectators. Feeling as though every eye was on me (how egotistical can you get), I made my way to the first door. Guess what? It was the boy’s bathroom which was immediately obvious by the strange facilities. I had never seen seatless – you know.

“Oh no!” I yelled. “I cannot believe I’m in the boy’s bathroom!” And what was worse was that every single person in this auditorium saw me come in here.

My heart pounded. My palms got sweaty and my brain lost all memory of why I came into that room in the first place. I stood frozen just inside the door trying to decide which was worse—to walk out that door in front of all those people or stay in there until some boy walked in to use the—um—thing. Either way, in my fifteen-year-old mind, I was ruined forever. I decided that to be caught and to witness a boy—you know—would be infinitely worse, so, in one burst of adrenalin I fled the room looking neither right nor left.

Now before you go laughing at me, let me say that I’ll bet every one of you have parked your car in some lot, done your shopping, and returned not having the faintest clue where you left your blasted car. Both Gene and I are guilty of losing the car and I have found my way out of the embarrassment. All you have to do is walk through one aisle after another and wave broadly and smile, as if you know exactly where your car is. It is an attitude thing. And the good news is that if you wait and wave and walk long enough everybody else will claim their cars, leaving yours in plain view—that is, unless you left it in an entirely different parking lot.

The lesson here is to pay more attention to what you’re doing if you’re leaving your car, and as far as the bathroom dilemma goes, get over your own sense of importance—nobody really cares.

I’ll bet you half the people wandering the parking lot have lost their cars, trucks, bikes, whatever, and they are acting like they know exactly where they’re going. Be kind to each other.

I am writing this in 2020 from memory. My feeling so embarrassed because I entered the boys bathroom is almost funny now.

The view from the mountain is wondrous!

Jean Brody

YOUTUBE WORSHIP

Live Sundays at 9:00am (MST)

Our YouTube worship is always happening! [CUCCBuenaVistaCO](#)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR!

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

PASTOR REBECCA WANTS TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

~Pastoral care & counseling, spiritual companioning, or just a warm conversation.

Please set up a time for a porch visit, distanced/masked visit, phone call, text, email or Zoom conversation.

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

Pastor’s Week:

Church Ministry Days: Sunday through Thursday

Family & Sabbath Days: Friday & Saturday

SIGNS (AND HEADLINES) OF THE TIMES?

Toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

Automatic washing machines: please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

Bargain basement upstairs.

Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or steps will be taken.

After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

We exchange anything—bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the 1st floor.

The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.

If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons.

We can repair anything. (Please knock hard on the door—the bell doesn't work.)

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

War Dims Hope for Peace

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

INSPIRATION CORNER

TO LISTEN

by Tai Sheridan

Listening to others affirms them,
blesses them, connects you to them,
and harmonizes you with them.

Listen without an agenda.
Listen without expectations.

Listen to the words.
Listen to the experience
behind the words.

Listen to body postures and expressions.
Listen to emotional tone.

Listen without taking it personally.

Listening gets you out
of your self-centered camp.

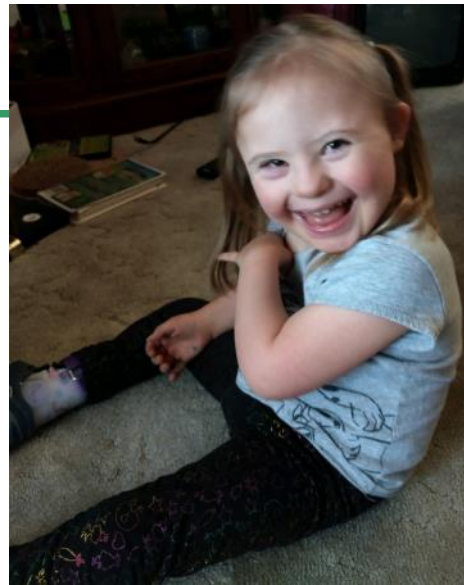
Listening is kindness.

PAISLEY UPDATE

I want to share an update on my great-niece, Paisley. Some have asked how she is doing. I haven't been around her for over a year and a half so it was good to get this from my sister, Nadene. (And....she loves to share her smile.)

Paisley turned 6 on March 24. That is very hard to believe! She still isn't walking on her own, but likes using her walker, with just a little bit of guidance. She still has the feeding tube, but will nibble at food given to her at meals. When school was having to stay home, she had Zoom meetings or something similar with her teacher. She is learning sign language for her letters and numbers. She really seemed to enjoy the videos. One day, Grandma was making the voice sounds of characters in a storybook. Paisley told Grandma "you funny."

Janet Steiner



GRADING AND GRACE

Pastor Katy Stenta

God, I confess that sometimes I treat Christianity like a graded activity. And it is all to my loss, because inevitably there is a typo in the bulletin, or a phone call I've forgotten to make, or an email with the wrong attachment two or three times. And sometimes then I feel bad that I can't do all of the things or help in all the ways I want to help. And, Lord, you know that my subconscious is telling me that points in my Christianity grade are being taken away. But that's not how it ever works, God. You never ever take points away from us, but are always ready to give us points and credit.

You fill our hearts with joy when we can help out! You create in us a celebratory spirit so that we can wish one another happy birthday, congratulate people on joyous life moments, like graduations, jobs, moves, babies, becoming healthier in any way.

God, you built us to encourage one another, to sit with one another when we are grieving and to cheer one another on, whenever we need it.

You give us all of the credit when we notice kindness or build one another up or remember to practice gratitude.

Christianity is the place where it should always be safe to ask for help.

And through your love, I am reminded that Christianity has never been a graded activity. It is, after all, a place for the least of these to thrive.

Christianity is a place where sitting at the right hand of Jesus is not the goal and washing the feet of those who need it the most is.

It is a place where perfection is admitted, up front, to be impossible, and trying our best is all that is required.

God, we know that you have designed the world, so there is no such thing as perfect faith. You will not give us a hundred on our Christian works.

Instead, you send the Holy Spirit to change our faith even as we change, and somehow still count it as valid.

Teach us again, God, that as faith changes us, we change our faith. We pray the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit prays us.

Tomato, Tomato—God's grace allows us to get all the credit.

Help us to practice the grace of Christianity, we pray. Suspend our judging nature, help us to let go of perfectionism and checklists and to instead be relational and growing in how and why we do this Christian thing.

Melt us, mold us, heal us, use us for your grace—whether we call it Christianity or not—let this be the way we live closer to you.

And when we fumble, remind us that Jesus Christ fully believes in the practice of extra credit.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES!

Sunday, April 11!

10:00am

Reservations requested

Please join us in person for worship together, socially-distanced and masked in the sanctuary and fellowship hall! We'll have live piano music and Pastor Rebecca will give her message from the pulpit. Other parts of the service will be pre-recorded and played on the TVs. The live portions in the sanctuary will be able to be watched on the TV in the fellowship hall.

When the weather becomes nice enough, we'll have the service outside and so be able to sing together!

Please contact Nancy in the office to make a reservation: 395-2544.



*Easter dresses for online
church this year*

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, April 24

8:30am-4:30pm (with breaks and an hour for lunch)

via Zoom

Some Council members have already attended or plan to attend an all day workshop designed by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center titled "Healthy Congregations: Equipping Leaders with Tools for Vitality." I found this very beneficial and hope others will register to participate on April 24. The skills covered in this class will benefit you in all your life's relationships. The Zoom class runs from 8:30am to 4:30pm with a break in the morning and afternoon, an hour for lunch, and small group discussions.

As I have said before, it will take all of us, working together, to heal and grow.

Please contact me, Merilee, at 719-966-2004 or merileekb53@gmail.com with questions or to register.

IMPORTANT WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY "Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches"

Saturday, May 22

9:00am-4:00pm (with breaks and an hour for lunch)


CUCC

Please join us for an all-day workshop, via Zoom, held at the church. The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is leading the workshop, which includes break-out sessions, and is brought to us by the RMC as part of the Healthy Congregations series. We will watch the sessions on the church's TVs. It is free and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The more of us that attend, the better we will be able to deal with future (and past) conflict, as we will learn what we can do to help transform conflict from a negative force into an opportunity for positive growth, preventing anxiety from becoming a toxic force in the congregation

Contact Merilee Daugherty at 719-966-2004 if you are interested so I can have an idea of how many rooms we might need for break-out sessions and to maintain social-distancing.

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS




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

The group is reading
 "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry"
 by Fredrik Backman.

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 and Zoom link list:
revbecca@icloud.com



WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP
EVERY SUNDAY
& ANYTIME!
CUCC SERVICES ON YOUTUBE

Go to **youtube.com** and search for **CUCCBuenaVistaCO**.

To watch services "live," tune in at **9:00am** Sunday mornings and anytime after.

GATHER FOR COFFEE HOUR AND FELLOWSHIP ON ZOOM!
Sundays, about 9:45am MST
(right after worship)

Join Zoom Meeting:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBDVTMydz09)
[pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBDVTMydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBDVTMydz09)

Meeting ID: **927 8280 8568**
 Passcode: **019834**
 Phone-in to join: **1-253-215-8782**

COMPOSTING AT CUCC

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

Compost generated directly by the church may be added for free, but individuals must sign up in order to be able to add their own personal composting.

For those adding CUCC's compost, the lock code is available in the office. Please see the information sheet in the kitchen and on the composting bins for what is and is not allowed.

BIBLE STUDY
Invitations from Grace Church

CUCC folks are heartily invited to join a Women's or Men's Bible Study at Grace Church. Currently on Zoom, they will be in-person later this season.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Fridays at 10:00am, via Zoom
led by Bob Yinger

Get on the list and receive a zoom link by contacting Robert Yinger at robertyinger@mac.com or Ray Stwalley at araystwalley@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Mondays at 9:30am, via Zoom
led by Rev. Catherine Tran

Get on the list and receive a zoom link by contacting Catherine at cathctran@gmail.com.

APPRECIATIONS

THANK YOU FROM CHARLOTTE SMITH

Dear friends,

My birthday, No. 99, was a day to remember because of each of you sending such lovely cards, and also the calls. I received 50 cards, with lovely, thoughtful words from each of you. I have appreciated your love and friendship for many years.

In Christian Love,
 Charlotte Smith


BACKPACK PROGRAM GRATEFUL FOR BAGS

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Backpack program by donating plastic grocery bags. We tried using the recyclable bags donated by Jacy Doumas a couple of years ago, but the students did not return them. We moved on to the paper grocery sacks, but with the pandemic, they were difficult to come by. We had to resort to the plastic bags, which have served us well. We double-bag the food items and, with 56 customers, require 112 bags a week.

My biggest delight has been the bags that are carefully and neatly folded, as it really makes my day! Thank you and continue with your donation of bags.

Merilee Daugherty

KUDOS COLUMN

 Kudos to all who work so lovingly and diligently and with so much dedication behind the scenes at CUCC. This month we lift up with special praise and thanksgiving the Finance Officers and Team!

Kudos also all winter long for the "Snow Angels" in our midst! Thanks for keeping us safe and the ways clear!

RMC CONNECTIONS

YOU'RE INVITED!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
2021 ANNUAL CELEBRATION
& BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, June 7—Sunday, June 13

EVERYONE can participate again this year in the RMC Annual Celebration! Delegates, guests, anyone who wants to be inspired! And it's 100% free!

The Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration for 2021 will feature live events on Zoom plus pre-recorded information session on the RMC YouTube channel.

Conference-Wide Worship on Sunday, June 13—This will be CUCC worship that Sunday on CUCC's YouTube channel.

Conference Business
 The business meeting will commence at 8:30am on Saturday, June 12.

Registration is Required
 Registration details will be shared via CUCC's weekly email blasts as they become available. For more information, feel free to contact the RMC at **303-984-9118** or **connect@rmcucc.org**.



CUCC REPORTS

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

Conversations That Matter has had some great discussions on "Who Stole My Bible?" It has been enlightening to look at the Bible in historical context and author Jennifer Butler's interpretation of the original intent of the writings and how it applies to the world today. Join us at 4:00pm Sunday afternoons via Zoom; the link is in the weekly blasts.

TELLS is meeting via Zoom on Tuesdays and is continuing with "My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry."

The FE team would love to have your input on what you would like to have CUCC offer as we emerge from our pandemic lockdown and can meet in person again. Please send your thoughts and suggestions to cucc.conversations@icloud.com.

Donna Maloney, Chair

Outreach/Community & World Team News —April greetings!

~The Backpack Program is distributing 56 bags weekly to BV young people and families.

CUCC contributed food and toiletries to the AVCM.

~The Coffee Project is doing well on a self-serve basis; Ron Rak reports a good supply of coffee beans of several varieties, hot cocoa mix, and baking cocoa kept in the cupboard in the AE room.

~Our five-for-five UCC offering in March/April is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Envelopes and change boxes are available in the church office and narthex.

~All are encouraged to contribute to the Bob Dwyer Children's Fund.

~A special Holy Week and Easter tribute is planned in cooperation with the Worship Team.

Helen Duncan, Chair

PASTORAL/CONGREGATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The PCRC is working to maintain an open relationship between the ordained pastor and members of the congregation. Each of the members are open to listening to concerns, acting within an atmosphere of confidentiality. Let us hear from you.

Helen Duncan Arlene Waldorf Mike Evans Ron Erickson

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- Built a fold-down table for a DVD player or other devices for the new TV in the fellowship hall. Nice job, Bowie! An electrical outlet will be installed next to it.
- Participated in snow removal at the church.
- Continuing to install LED tubes in various higher use locations, such as the fellowship hall and kitchen.
- Still waiting on the new doors for the sanctuary. Panic hardware for the front doors has been ordered.
- The Team has decided that a new sound system will not be needed for outside services.

Ron Hassell, Co-Chair

Worship Team

For Easter, we plan to deliver a surprise packet to each family or single member the Wednesday before Easter. The Outreach Team will help with this. We will start in-person services on April 11 in the church—wearing masks, social-distancing, and making reservations in advance. We will continue the YouTube service for those who aren't able to come to church. When the weather is warmer, we will have services on the lawn.

We will hand out carnations to all the women attending the service on Mother's Day, May 9, and deliver to the women not in attendance. On Father's Day we will hand out a gift to all the men, either in person or delivered.

We look forward to getting together and seeing everyone in April. It's been a long time, but with the vaccinations now available, we are hopeful everyone is safe and will remain healthy.

Linda Rak, Chair

Stewardship/Visioning Team News

The Chair of the Team has met with each of the team members recently by phone. We will commence in-person meetings in April and are looking forward to working in concert with Council on continuing the current vision focusing.

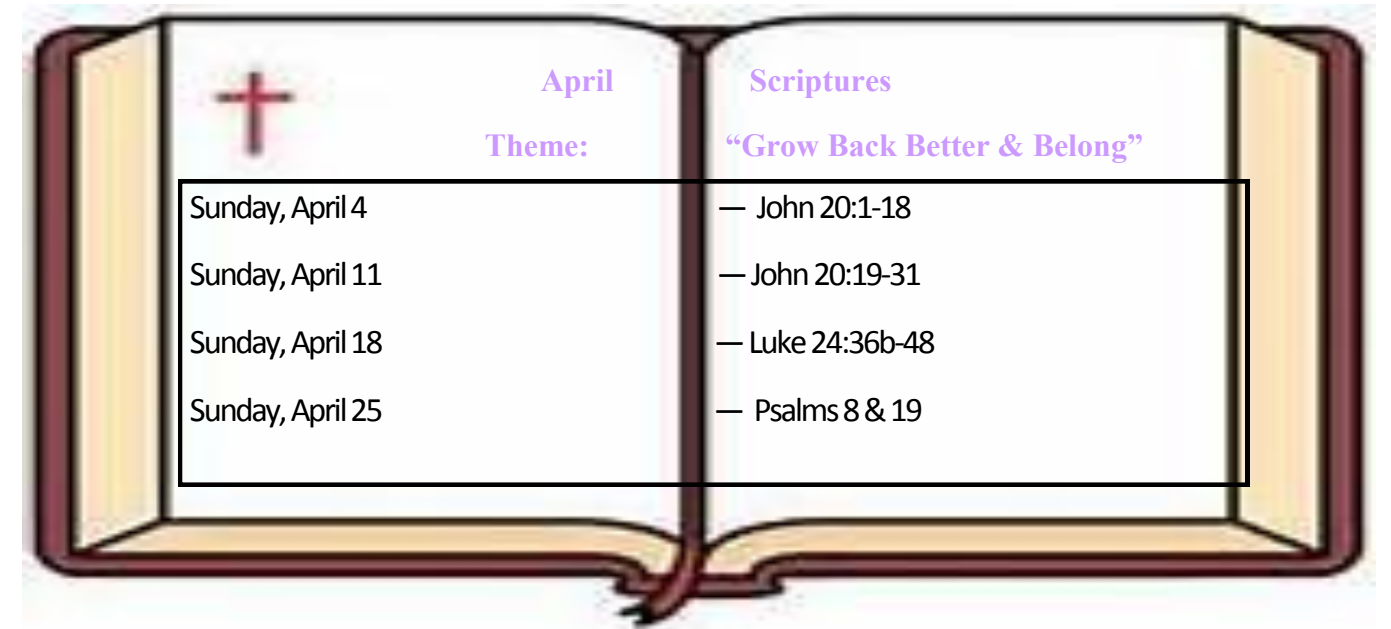
Bob Stocker, Chair

Finance and Budget Team April News

The Team has been meeting quarterly and will meet again in April.

Bill Waldorf, Co-Chair

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Sundays, 4:00pm MST
via Zoom

Please join us as we begin our discussion on the book *Who Stole My Bible?* by Rev. Jennifer Butler. The author will join us via zoom on Sunday, April 11th!

For questions, comments, get on the list, or to receive the Zoom link, contact:

cucc.conversations@icloud.com

We hope you'll join us!

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

Tithe.ly makes it easy to put the 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!

WE WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

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**.

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!

CUCC Council Minutes - March 17, 2021

7:19pm 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 Merilee Daugherty, Vice Moderator Betsy Neas, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Helen Duncan, Marjorie Erickson, Judy Hassell, Donna Maloney, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker.

Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Merilee Daugherty began the meeting with a prayer.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the February 17 regular Council meeting were approved as published. The March 3 Listening Meeting minutes were approved as written.

Clerk's Report: Ron Rak reported recent deaths of Karen Bowers (Feb. 22) and Bonnie Guenther (March 4).

Treasurer's Report: Asst. Treasurer Judy Hassell reported that the Finance and Budget Team had decided to only prepare quarterly financial reports due to Treasurer Lloyd Martinez's heavy day-job schedule. In discussion, Council's consensus was that it was very important to the congregation to know key monthly income and expenses. A short narrative describing the general financial health of the church is also useful. Bill Waldorf might be able to determine the key operating figures in the in-between months from income and expense entries. Judy felt that the current financial program "PowerChurch" was too complicated for the church's needs. Bob Stocker suggested the commonly used Quick Books program as an easier alternative. A positive financial note for February was that the church received \$20,128 in a PPP (Paycheck Protection Plan) government loan, which will be used mostly for employee salaries for a good part of the year.

Moderator's Report: Merilee announced the upcoming May 22 RMC workshop on Conflict Transformation Skills and encouraged as many of us as possible to attend to learn these skills for the future. She reported that the planned Stations of the Cross outdoor service on Good Friday in coordination with Grace Church was organizing well and it will be highlighted in the April newsletters of both churches to encourage congregational attendance.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

The Mission Statement proposed at the March 3 meeting was tendered for Council approval. After a reading of the statement, *Betsy Neas moved/Linda Rak seconded to approve the statement for church use. Motion passed.*

Mission/Identity/Purpose statement – Approved 3/17/21

As followers of Jesus, we are committed to exploring together Jesus' teachings, his actions, and his justice, to better love, respect, and welcome all people.

Three Church Goals. The three primary goals: Extravagant Welcome, Education, Mission suggested by the Listening Team on March 3, were discussed. It was suggested these might better be named "Focus Areas" (TBD). Rebecca proposed that each team should talk about these at every monthly meeting. Judy suggested the goals could have "Action Plans" developed for each, which can be modified with time and input. *Helen moved/Marjorie seconded to approve the goals. Motion passed unanimously.*

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Full Team Reports were sent to Council members via the Clerk and reviewed before the meeting.

Stewardship: Bob noted the team's next meeting is scheduled for March 22.

Women's Missionary Society: Marjorie is considering an April 8 in-person meeting at Jan's restaurant and asked for the advisability of such a meeting from Council. Merilee said the latest guidance from Chaffee Public Health was in-person groups of 10 or less are acceptable in a restaurant. Judy suggested the church might be safer since there is more space, and the FH can accommodate a few more persons. Marjorie emphasized that the simple need to get together is the most important thing, and for safety they may forego a coffee hour type meeting.

Outreach Team: Helen Duncan said the team's immediate priority is receiving March and early April contributions in support of the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing program. We continue our support with your contributions of the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission food bank and the Backpack Program supplemental lunch program for schoolchildren.

Worship Team: Linda Rak and Rebecca noted that the Lenten services were going well virtually in conjunction with Grace Church. Plans for the Good Friday outdoor service, Stations of the Cross, to be held at Grace Church are also well underway. A special "Easter basket" greeting is being prepared by the Outreach and Worship teams, with plans to personally deliver them to all congregants.

NEW BUSINESS

Copier Contract. The current contract expires the end of April. Merilee has acquired bids for two replacement machines, a color copier and a black and white. In discussion, Rebecca felt that the church currently does not need a color copier, which is the more expensive. The office already has a small separate color copier for occasional use, which satisfies current needs.

After reviewing the costs of the two machines, *Marjorie moved/Judy seconded to accept the black and white contract for a 5 year period, which will also include a service agreement. Council approved.*

Personnel Committee: Helen noted that such a committee was discussed in 2017 or 2018. The committee was never formed due to a lack of enough people to staff it. Recently, the Council has been serving as a personnel committee to date. Do we really have a need for a separate committee? What will the committee do that isn't already being done? Merilee suggested that we need/could use a better structure to provide accountability for each employee. The Office Communications Administrator has adequate supervision and annual evaluations and goal-setting with the Pastor and Moderators, but the pianist and custodian positions do not have clear lines and policies of supervision and review. Helen suggested that maybe two Facilities Team members could oversee the custodian and two Worship Team members the pianist, in concert with the Pastor. With this suggestion, Rebecca didn't feel that we need a separate committee. However, previously the church hasn't had a process and structure to review and evaluate all employees, so if this is acceptable, all additions and clarifications should be written into the bylaws.

Pastor's Report: Rebecca noted that the three "focus areas" are already being worked upon. Events are being envisioned to draw people from the community to our church community. With the success of the Lenten services, closer coordination is being considered with Grace Church to develop joint events. She shared that all churches are strongly encouraged to continue online YouTube worship indefinitely, to keep reaching our wider congregation that has developed. We will also seek to hold indoor worship as is deemed safe and look to holding outdoor worship as much as possible.

Rebecca coordinates with VirJeanne Williams and others in the congregation to meet the pastoral needs of the congregation. She encourages the whole congregation to be the Pastoral Care Team, and communicate fully together. A big question she put out to us (and rhetorically to the congregation) was: How do we help people more in their homes?

Prayer Concerns/Updates: Rebecca ended the meeting with several immediate prayer concerns and updates, followed by a closing prayer.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Upcoming Events:

May 22 RMC virtual workshop for Conflict Transformation Skills

RMC Annual Celebration: June 7 through 13, all virtual, with a Sunday service available to all of us on June 13. All CUCC folks encouraged to attend! No limit or charge. We will pay \$100 for CUCC.

UCC General Synod: July 11 – 18, Workshops July 7 – 10. All virtual. All CUCC folks may attend!

Next regular Council Meeting is April 21, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRISTIAN MISSION IN NEED OF FOOD

—and yes, even 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 *honey
*relishes/condiments (catsup, mustard, pickle relish)

Due to the unprecedented number of requests from Mission clients for assistance with utilities & rent, your cash donations are especially appreciated.



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Your continued support is always appreciated!

Always welcome:

Tuna — Chef Boyardee
Juice Boxes — Fruit Cups

Pudding Cups — Granola or Cereal Bars