

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Schedule

9:00am Conversations that Matter Discussion Group

10:00am Worship Service

& Children's Church

11:00am Coffee Hour

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
February, 2020



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together....if the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where He wanted it.

selected from: I Corinthians 12:14-18. The Message

As your newly elected (and somewhat reluctant) moderator, I want you to know right up front that I love this church and am committed to work to make it even better and stronger than before.

Maybe we need to take a step back and remind ourselves of what we've all accomplished as "one body," as Paul reminded us in his letter to the Corinthians quoted above. Each of us has brought who we are as individuals to contribute our gifts and abilities (different-but-similar parts, functioning together) to bring this church through almost 140 years. Like today, there have been some fractious times in the 20 or more years that I've been associated with BV CUCC and no doubt before that. Our building was built by its members—from people who drew the plans, transported building materials from the Front Range, to carpenters, to a small group of women who worked together with hammers and nails to keep tarpaper and shingles from blowing off the roof on the north side of the building. And I am also reminded of our recent windows project where a total of 15 (or more) people lent their expertise, muscle, and the work of their hands to bring the project to completion. "Different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together..." as one body. We did it TOGETHER because we were individually and collectively committed to our church and to one another.

Now we are faced with a new challenge. As an optimist, I believe we can seek and find, with God's help, a path forward TOGETHER. We might begin with considering and pondering what it is that brings and holds us together and what we have in common as a community of believers. I say "ponder" because I doubt it will be an easy task. To help us, the Council has voted to avail ourselves of the services of the Rocky Mountain Conference's staff to work in the areas of conflict resolution and visioning. The event is scheduled for the weekend of March 7-8.

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

Kathy Roman, Moderator

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



PASTOR'S ARTICLE, February, 2020

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” – Matthew 13:31-33

A story from Rev. Cameron Trimble, author of *Piloting Church: Helping Your Congregation Take Flight*, gets us thinking about the seeds we are planting and what risks we are willing to take to start things going and growing for long into the future.

In his book, *American Story*, NBC's Bob Dotson tells about the time he interviewed Paul Rokish. For fifty years, Paul had watched the **trees** die, the deer disappear, the grass wither and turn gray near his home in Salt Lake City. His passion was to return life where it had been taken away.

He grew up in the old American Smelting camp. Copper was beneath the mountains and to reach it, workers nearly killed the soil. The mountains were so polluted that experts said they could not be saved. One moonlit night he slipped over the copper company fence, alone in the dark desert with a knapsack and two trees.

Skirting the guards, he climbed to the top of the black rock canyon and planted the trees at the foot of a dead willow. Rokish sneaked in again the following night, and the night after that—in all of the nights for the next *fourteen* years, planting and tenderly caring for thousands of trees by carrying water on his back. Darkness hid what he was doing, but not the results. The burned-out mountains turned green again!

When he finally confessed his trespasses to company officials, he figured they would call the county sheriff. Instead, they hired him! They were amazed that he could have secretly planted 70,000 acres. He reported later that he had no idea how far he had come. At first, experts were skeptical, but Kennecott, the company that owned the land, made Paul's environmental plan its policy.

Today Paul stands among the trees that had grown taller and surveys the land around them. It is now green and shows no scars from the previous years of exploitation. He never told anybody about what he was doing. He lived like the seeds he loved. While many lived before his were planted in that place but never took root, his did.

What about yours?

I am so thankful for the brave and ambitious foremothers and forefathers of the Congregational Church who had the insight and courage to plant seeds, build buildings, start Sunday programs and worship services, find a pastor and begin the Bazaar. So many decades ago. We stand at a pivotal moment in the life of CUCC, just as they did. Our 140th Anniversary this year calls us to profound reflection on who we are, who we've been, and where we are going.

There's a Greek proverb that says: “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” What seeds will we plant this year and beyond, that will grow and thrive and provide shade and sustenance to our community for decades to come?

Please SAVE THE DATE on your calendar to gather together on Saturday, March 7, 9:00am-1:00pm, (Council & Team Leaders) and Sunday, March 8, 11:00am-1:00pm, (All Congregation) to dream together of the seeds we will plant this year and beyond, and the beauty we will create together for a vital and healthy future.

Blessings, Rebecca

PASTOR CHATS—3:00pm-5:00pm Tuesdays

Pastor Rebecca will hold “Drop-In Hours” at the Office.

Feel free to drop by for a healthy dialogue, with the understanding that someone might be there ahead of you.

Please knock on the door to let Pastor Rebecca know you're waiting.

For a quality, fully-focused, confidential conversation, please make an appointment.

Pastor Rebecca will gladly meet with you during the week (and after Coffee Hour on Sundays) at the office, or over coffee (or lunch or wine!), or come to your home.

Pastor Rebecca would love to connect with you!

Make an appointment or request a visit to assure her undivided attention.

Leave a message at the office at 719-395-2544, call her cell at 719-252-6890, or email to revbecca@icloud.com.



Kudos Kolumn

Thank you to Moderators past, present, and future! Fantastic job, you all!

Marge Erickson, Kathy Roman, & Mark Wolters.



IMAGINE & SHARE YOUR DREAMS FOR CUCC!

Two very important gatherings in the life and future of CUCC will be happening in March, led by Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Erin Gilmore:

COUNCIL & LEADERSHIP TEAMS RETREAT & Brunch

Saturday, March 7, 9:00am-1:00pm

Location TBA

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING & Lunch at CUCC

to Dream our Future Together

Sunday, March 8, 11:00am-1:00pm



CUCC CARES FOR CREATION

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



COMPOSTING AT CUCC -
SIGN UP TODAY!

YES, THE CHURCH MAY USE THE 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.

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



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) 542-1560
Life Care Center of Westminster, Aspen Hall, Rm. 112
7751 Zenobia Court, Westminster, CO 80030

Jean Brody (303) 720-9595
Sterling House #505
8271 South Continental Divide Road
Littleton, CO 80127

Roger Cason (719) 539-6112 (C)
Columbine Manor
530 W. 16th Street, Salida, CO 81201

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

Bonnie Guenther (719) 395-2261
PO Box 12
318 Pinon Street, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Betty Gwynn (719) 395-2966
29155 CR 331, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Lew Lowe (717) 490-8288
925 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Apt. 326
Willow Street, PA 17584

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

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

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

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

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

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

Doris Westerlund (719) 640-1853
High View Hills #242
20150 Highview Ave., 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

Lyndsey Fagerberg Close
1920 Frontage Rd., Apt. 1714
Cherry Hill, NJ 0803

CUCC Special Dates



BIRTHDAYS

February 1—Steve Allinger
February 2—Bowie Duncan
February 2—Ric Houseman
February 2—Charlotte Smith
February 3—Merilee Daugherty
February 8—Will Bullock
February 12—Sharie Schofield
February 14—Adam Blake
February 16—Bill Waldorf
February 20—Del Jones
February 20—Rebecca Poos
February 26—Mary Fons Colvin
February 26—Bob Stocker
February 27—Bill Helms
February 27—Ken Rehborn
February 28—Butch Ekin



ANNIVERSARIES

February 2—Steve & Kay Allinger
February 26—Bob Stocker & Ellen Kely

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

Del Jones—Healing
Ruby Hamilton—Healing
Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing
Sarah Struthers—Healing
Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing
Gary Dennis (friend of Rhonda Funston)—Healing
Norma Hughes (aunt of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
Brooke Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
Kaylynne Pomfret and Blakely-Grace Pomfret—Strength & Healing
The Family of Bernie Robinson—Comfort
Mardy Cason (brother of Roger Cason)—Healing
Dwight Griggs—Healing
Brendan Stuart (niece of Molly Stuart)—Healing
Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing
Kayleigh & Family (friends of Barb Wilder)—Healing
Jarron Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
The Family of Mark & Peggy Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Comfort
Lori Hagen (friend of Kay Allinger)—Healing
Linette Williams—Healing
Marcy Adams—Healing
Pam Hughes—Healing
Roger Cason—Healing
Shirl Holloway—Healing
Leonard Nyberg—Healing
Marge Erickson—Healing
Mary Messamer—Healing
Ruth Amster—Healing
Wisdom and Transformation for the People of Earth
Doris Westerlund—Healing



February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AE=Adult Ed. Rm. CH=Choir Room D=Drama Room FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen RR=Rainbow Rm. S=Sanctuary						1 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
2 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Communion Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	3 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	4	5 3pm Optimist Youth Appr. Breakfast Set-up -FH, K, AE, D 3:30pm-5:30pm	6 6-9am Optimist Youth Appreciation Breakfast -FH, K, AE, D 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	7 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 9:30-11:30am Fiber Guild-FH 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	8 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7 10:15am-11:30am Al-Anon Dist. 22 -#7
9 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am-12:30pm Worship Team-#7 11:30am-1pm Faith Education Team-D	10 8am-5pm Monarch Quilters -FH, K 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	11 4:30am-6:30pm Outreach Team -AE	12 10am-12pm Stew/ Vis Team-AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	13 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH 6-8pm Facilities	14 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	15 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
16 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Potluck/"I Love Favorite Food"; Birthdays Celebration/Church Family Windows Dedication 	17 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	20 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	21 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	22 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
23 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	24 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-6:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH, S	25 6:30-8pm	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 5pm Choir-CH	27 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH	28 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	29 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7



view from the Mountain

“LIFE IS ETERNAL”



Way back in August of 1997, I wrote a column that, once and for all, erased the fear of death for me. Even though I wasn't too old, my health was in shambles and that made me think of such things prematurely.

But today, at eighty-eight and living in an assisted living facility, I am much more familiar with “passing” and how quickly its reality makes me revisit my thoughts. Do I truly not fear death? What is there to be afraid of? Surely I still feel no fear, but what about not fearing the absolute unknown?

Nobody knows for sure what happens that moment after our heart simply stops its beat. So is that the fear?

You know who Carly Simon is? She is an incredibly talented and sensitive musician who wrote a song - words and music - which the radio disk jockeys all around the country refused to play. The reason? “It is about death and death is depressing,” they said.

Carly was hurt and very surprised because, as she said, “It is not about death at all; it's about life.”

Right about that same time, I was doing a lot of lecturing around the country on the subject of the Circle of Life. When I heard this story on a music station, I asked for a copy of the lyrics and she sent them to me. Now I want very much to share some of them with you.

“Life is eternal
Love is immortal
And death is only a horizon.
Life is eternal, as we move into the light,
and the horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.
Save the limit of our sight.”

I don't know about you but these words made me want to shout for joy. To me, when fear is removed from the ultimate state of death it frees us all to experience the horizon just as we experienced every other phase of life.

I truly believe this my friends. Death has nothing to do with fear. It is only a horizon where we peacefully move into the *light*. How do I know? I know because life is eternal and we will be given heavenly sight to continue.

The view from the mountain is wondrous!

~ Jean Brody



LOVE FOOD?!

Valentine's Weekend Potluck
Sunday, February 16, after worship service

Church Family Windows Dedication in Worship followed by Love Lunch.

We'll also celebrate those with February birthdays!

Bring a dish you love and share with your church family.



140th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT CUCC—WE NEED YOU!!

CUCC turns 140 this year, 2020, and we are celebrating all year long!

Each newsletter will include a short piece of our history, and we hope for “living history” as well! Share your stories, interview a long-timer about their memories of CUCC and BV “back in the day.” Let's gather up this vital history and collective memory now!

Every time an old person dies, it's like a library burning down. (Alex Haley)

Let's save our treasured libraries! Talk to Pastor Rebecca to learn more and send your stories and ideas to Nancy in the office!



CUCC HISTORY

from the CUCC 2000 Church Directory

The Church was organized on March 18, 1880 with 17 members. The first church building was 24' x 40' of lathe and plaster with a common clapboard exterior. It had straw matting on the floor, a pot-bellied stove and a small cupola with a bell. The edifice was built at a cost of \$1,100 and was dedicated free of debt on April 18, 1880.

At this time, the town of Buena Vista was three months old with 2,000 inhabitants, 60 saloons, several dance hall and brothels. The first sermon was preached in the harness shop of C. E. Doud with a saloon on both sides and two saloons and a dance hall directly opposite.

The second edifice was built of brick at a cost of \$2,181.78 with all debts paid except for a \$500 loan. The first worship service in this building was held on Easter, March 31, 1907.

In 1928, the Congregational and Methodist Churches merged with the Congregationalists providing the building and parsonage and the Methodists providing the minister.

The year 1962 saw the first phase of the present building constructed and also a new parsonage was purchased in 1963 at 534 Park Lane. The Sunday School addition was completed in 1965. In this 85th year, the church membership was 79. In 1977, the parsonage was sold and another was purchased at 210 Brookdale.

A new front entry was added in 1992, as well as a secretarial office. In December, 1995, construction began by our members on a 46' x 46' addition, including two new restrooms equipped with showers and handicapped access. The work was done by our members and no debt was incurred.

A portion of the Christian Education wing was remodeled in the spring of 1996. Three classrooms were moved to open up a large area for the fellowship hall. Following this project, the kitchen was enlarged and remodeled with new cabinets and a new commercial gas range. Again, nearly all the work was done by our own membership.

In April, 2000, the old parsonage was torn down and construction began on a new 2,567 square foot house, the work being done by the members and friends of the church. The work was completed in September of the same year.

Forty-four pastors have served the church these 120 years. Reverend Dare has been serving this congregation since September 1, 1982. We are a congregation of 260 members, our largest membership roll ever. We look forward to the 21st century and to all the opportunities it will afford us to serve our Lord.

Outreach/Community & World Team News
February greetings!

The Outreach team reminds you of the Ash Wednesday Lenten Soup supper, Feb. 26, held at CUCC following the worship service at 6:00pm. We'll need volunteers to prepare soup and bring bread. Watch for the sign-up board in February.

Please read below about one of our programs with Global Ministries and how our contributions to our teenager, Angelo Jesus Abellana, are used.

PHILIPPINES: Located in Dumaguete City, Philippines, Dumaguete Kalauman Center of Development spreads God's love through services and programs such as educational programs, health services, and Christian Education. Known as Kalauman, meaning "from where you draw hope," it is a Child and Elder Sponsorship partner of Global Ministries. The money received by Global Ministries from sponsors is used for the children's education expenses, medical assistance, and to establish a college or trade school savings fund for each child. Kalauman also works to strengthen partnerships with nearby communities to promote opportunities for children and families to participate in their communities and to connect parents of children at Kalauman to employment opportunities.

Worship Team Notes

- **We welcome new members** Debby Cason and Vivian York and honor out-going members Betsy Neas, Ruthann Schoffield, and Barb Groy!
 - **Ellen Kely** has volunteered to carry on the card ministry for our team.
 - **We've reviewed the Christmas services** and feel that the new shortened Vigil went well; we'll continue it next year. The Easter Vigil plans will be made at the next meeting.
 - **We're planning a Valentine Potluck** for February 16 right after church. February Birthdays will also be celebrated that day. And we'll dedicate the Church Family Windows! Bring a dish you love and enjoy the fellowship with friends and family.
- Cheers, Barb Groy

The Faith Education Team
Faith Education for Everyone

At our January meeting, we reviewed the responsibilities of our team and also talked about new possibilities. We regretfully accepted the resignation of Ruby Hamilton due to her back injury and send her our gratitude for serving this past year. Alice Wolters continues to schedule teachers for Children's Church and order curriculum. "Conversations That Matter" will begin to discuss "The Jesus Path," by Stephen Poos-Benson, at the 9:00am Sunday morning discussion group. Arlene thanked the team for their good work throughout the year in planning several special events: the Easter Egg Hunt, the 4th of July Pie Sale, the North Carolina mission trip, and the Christmas program (assisting Janet Steiner).

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER
Sundays, 9:00-9:45, Adult Ed Room

On January 19 we began sharing thoughts about "The Jesus Path," a new publication by author Stephen Poos Benson. Each week we'll discuss one of the chapters using the discussion questions in the back of the book. There are 11 chapters. All are welcome to join us for a lively time of sharing. See Arlene if you need a book.

CUCC Lent & Easter Season



Ash Wednesday, February 26, 6:00pm, CUCC

- Lenten Services/Soup Suppers, 6:00pm**
- Wednesday, March 4, Grace Church**
- Wednesday, March 11, CUCC**
- Wednesday, March 18, Grace Church**
- Wednesday, March 25, CUCC**
- Wednesday, April 1, Grace Church**

Palm Sunday Service, April 5, 10:00am

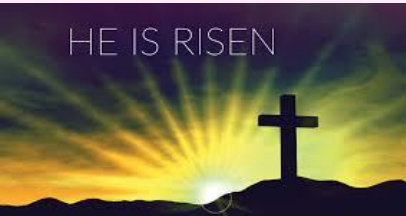
Maundy Thursday Service, April 9, 7:00pm

Good Friday Service, April 10, 12:00pm (noon)

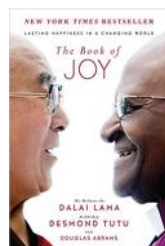
Easter SonRise Service, Sunday, April 12, 7:00am

**Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt,
Sunday, April 12, 8:00am**

**Easter Celebration Service, Sunday,
April 12, 10:00am**



CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



MONDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Mondays at 8:00am
Grace Church Annex

Men of CUCC are invited to join men of Grace Church for this class. They have now begun studying "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama.

The sessions last one to one and one-half hours and are open to men of CUCC and the community.

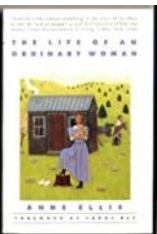
TELLS

Tuesday Evening Ladies
Literary Society
Tuesdays, 7:00pm
held at members' homes



All women are invited!

We read and discuss books, share life, joys, and concerns, and enjoy snacks!



The group is reading
"The Life of an Ordinary Woman"
by Anne Ellis.

See Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list.

MIDLAND HIKER ART SHOW—Invites CUCC Attendees and Artists!

Saturday, April 4, 10:00am-2:00pm

Once again this year, the Midland Hikers group is planning an art show in the CUCC fellowship hall on April 3-4. This informal show is a chance for conversation and fellowship among friends who hike and also make art.

The group welcomes CUCC folks to participate in the show at a table and wall space designated especially for you. If you have always wanted to get your creative work out into the public, this is a friendly, fun way to do it! If you are interested in participating (you will need to be available both days to help with set-up and take-down), contact Deb Hannigan at (719) 339-3205 or by email at debhannigan5@gmail.com. Even if you

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Our January speaker was Connie Gable, a local Nurse Practitioner with a specialty in diabetes. Her presentation was very informative. Our February 27 speaker will be Judy Pankow, who will be speaking about her mission trip to Africa. We invite all our CUCC family and those in the community to attend our meetings. We begin our meetings with the speaker, and when they are finished move on to our meeting. Following our meeting we enjoy refreshments provided by some of our members.

~Merilee Daugherty

THANK YOU FROM THE RUTH AMSTER

Pastor Rebecca,
Thank you for the muffins & visit this week. I'm feeling better & getting stronger each day.
Love, Jim & Ruthie

A WORD FROM RUBY HAMILTON

January 19 at 12:35am
To my church family,
1 month ago my life changed. I will never take my physical strength for granted. This has taken me on a journey mentally and physically. I shall get through this with every prayer, thought, work, and support from all.

Bless you all,
Ruby Garduno Hamilton



Stewardship/Visioning Team News

In January, we reviewed the goals we had set at the beginning of 2019; a few of the goals we weren't able to complete. Fortunately, the "3 Bs" (Bowie Duncan, Bob Stocker and Bill Waldorf), plus Judy Hassell and I "re-upped" for another year; therefore, we decided to carry over the goals we didn't complete.

Despite not having been able to proceed with the community clean-up day as we envisioned due to there not being enough trash around town to merit the community all-call, we still felt good about what we accomplished working on the church grounds. It was a nice fellowship opportunity, as well as a productive one.

By working with the Finance Team in sponsoring the OurMatch.Challenge, we were able to significantly reduce our budget short-fall. Congregants were extraordinarily generous and both teams are more grateful than we can express.

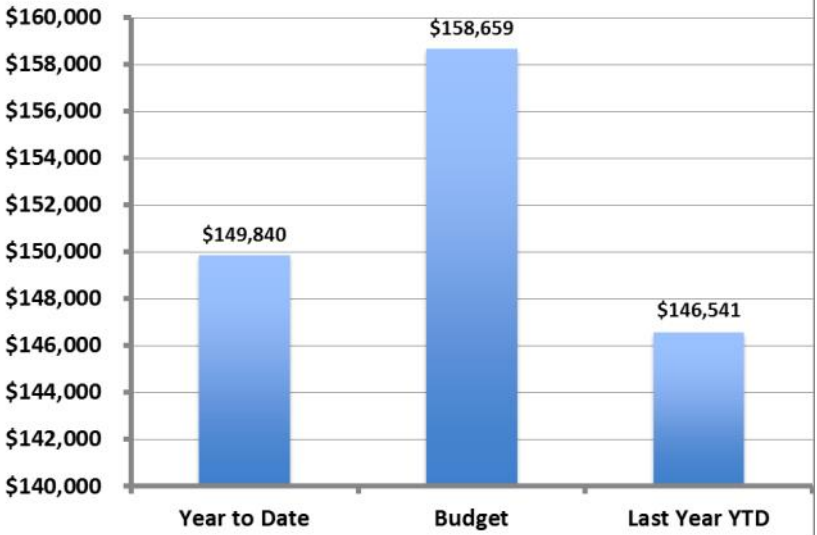
We've discussed how we might move forward with positive action to help the church deal with conflict and goal-setting and making people feel that they are truly heard. We will recommend to Council that the church utilize UCC Conference resources to help our congregation deal constructively with conflict and move forward with a visioning process to give us more of an agreed-upon focus.

We've also looked at how to help people view their giving of time, talent, and treasures as a positive spiritual practice in response to God's love for us. The book *Holy Currencies* is a recommended read and copies are available to the congregation. We seek to make a *greater effort to share the good news of our church* with the congregation and keep them well-informed.

We have an open position on our team and would appreciate your giving sincere consideration to joining us. We have an outstanding team and believe you would benefit, as well as enjoy helping us serve our church.

Ann Condra, Chair

General Contributions through December, 2019



CUCC Finance and Budget Team

February News

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS—CUCC 2005-2019

	General	Total
2005	109,400	139,700
2006	111,300	115,800
2007	124,500	130,200
2008	117,200	122,200
2009	130,900	134,900
2010	146,400	151,500
2011	151,900	156,100
2012	154,300	160,000
2013	152,800	158,700
2014	167,400	173,600
2015	171,000	177,300
2016	166,100	173,200
2017	153,300	163,200
2018	146,500	158,700
2019	149,800	160,300



CINDY CELEBRATION SONG

Sung during Celebrate Cindy event, Sunday, Jan. 19



Now, we'll celebrate Cindy
Let's celebrate Cindy
For years, you watched our funds
Wrote the checks and got things done
Your free time, hope it's filled
with fun things
Our wishes, please, take to the bank.



CHURCH FAMILY WINDOWS UPDATE

The Church Family Windows project has been wonderfully supported. The warmth of the new windows was felt with the donations, then the installation crews, and continued through with the finishing help. They have, also, been much warmer during our cold weather. It would be hard to compare heating expenses when the weather isn't similar, but it has to help.

The sanctuary and Fellowship Hall valances were designed, built, and donated by Delmar Smith. They were stained and poly-ed by Barb Wilder. They look great, match the windows, and cover the roller shades.

The photo shows the new valances and curtains. The curtains are tan/beige-ish. The fabric has designs in several colors. One design is music notes, sort of a favorite. They only cover the ends since the shade rolls down to darken the room. Barb Wilder and Janet Steiner enjoyed working together to complete them.

Part of the donation price was to hire a contractor. Since one wasn't found, there was money left in the fund. The donors are being contacted to determine their wishes for its use. A windows dedication will be held on February 16 during the service. The plaques, with a location map, will be available.

The windows committee—Ron Hassell, Mark Wolters, and Janet Steiner—can't possibly express their complete appreciation for all the workers who stepped up. It was truly amazing!! Janet must say thanks to Ron and Mark for being so good to work with and taking on the technical side when she didn't have a clue. So what is left to do???.... the windows will need to be washed! (+_+)



Backpack Program

Food items always in demand:

- *Shelf-stable milk (Horizon milk in cartons on shelf at Walmart, white or chocolate)
- *Fruit cups (individual)
- *Chef Boyardee, pasta, etc.
- *Pudding Cups
- *Granola or Cereal Bars

As always, cash donations are appreciated, too!

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

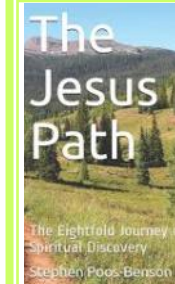


- Feb. 2—Holy Be Your Name
- Feb. 9—Your Will be Done in Heaven & Earth
- Feb. 16—Give Us Daily Bread
- Feb. 23—Forgive Us and Each Other
- March 1—Lead Us Not Into Temptation

ALL CHILDREN PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE ARE INVITED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Come meet the characters in *Deep Blue*, learn new songs and have fun with craft projects!

Come to worship at 10 am, join in the Children's Message in church, and then follow your teacher to the Art Room.



"CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER" Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room

The group is currently studying "The Jesus Path: The Eightfold Journey of Spiritual Discovery" by Stephen Poos-Benson.

BE IN THE KNOW!

- ◆ Copies of Sunday messages can be found in the file box outside the pastor's office door.
- ◆ 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, but feel free to leave a message at any time.
- ◆ Contact Nancy in the office to get on the birthday/anniversary list. *Please include the year of said birthday/anniversary.*



CUCC Council Minutes
January 15, 2020

Present: Kay Allinger, Merilee Daugherty, Bowie Duncan, Helen Duncan, Moderator Marge Erickson, Ron Erickson, Barb Groy, Cindy Helm, Rebecca Poos, Betsy Neas, Ron Rak, Vice-Moderator Kathy Roman, Arlene Waldorf, Bill Waldorf.
Visitors: Kathy Keidel.

Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Marge Erickson opened with a prayer and devotional from the book “Thin Places Everywhere: The 12 Days of Christmas with Celtic Christianity,” by Bruce Epperly, A Christmas Practice (p. 130), on the theme that Christmas can be a vision quest for us all. She continued with a question to us all “What would you like to see for the church for next year?”

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the December 18 Council Meeting were reviewed for corrections. Two were noted:
1) Marge wanted to include Kay’s sharing of the progress of her sister Linette’s healing in Prayer Concerns.
2) Cindy requested her name be deleted from the “OurMatch.Challenge” letter preparation credits.
Merilee moved/Arlene seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected; motion passed.

Clerk’s Report: Ron Rak reported four January changes: January 7 David Long withdrew membership; January 9 Verona Taggart passed away; January 12 Ruby Hamilton resigned from the Faith Ed Team due to health issues; January 15 Ken Rehborn and Lloyd Martinez joined the church by reaffirmation of faith.

Treasurer’s Report: Cindy reported that total expenses in December exceeded income by \$7,993, but the November/December “*OurMatch.Challenge*” fund-raising effort produced \$7,700 in additional income. Resultant year-to-date expenses exceed total income by \$2,648, but the shortage was transferred out of the Reserve Fund to balance the budget. The “*Family Windows Project*” resulted in \$26,925 in total contributions, with expenses to date of \$18,128. Trim work remains to be done, but is not expected to consume the remaining \$8,797. The Facilities Team discussed options for dealing with the unused funds. Team member Mark Wolters proposed that a letter be sent to all contributors, requesting that they consider transferring all remaining project surplus to the Building Fund. If approved, the funds would be used for specific priority building improvements.

Moderator’s Report: Marge expressed sincere appreciation for the support of all Council members at all the Council meetings for the entire year, noting that attendance has been high. Preparations for the January 26 Annual Congregational Meeting were well underway.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Report: Marge noted recent changes to the 2020 Slate of Officers in the 2019 Annual Report. The Committee had exceptionally good success in filling team positions for the 2020 year, such that all teams have more than the required three members. Only four optional positions remain, but are not required to be filled.

Letter of Resignation from Assistant Treasurer: Marge presented a letter from Doyle Nyberg resigning his position of Assistant Treasurer effective January 26; Clerk will file the letter accordingly. Ron Erickson noted that Council will need to appoint a replacement Assistant Treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

Continuation of Congregational Gatherings in 2020: Council discussed whether to continue the quarterly Congregational Gatherings for another year. Marge noted that the luncheon format for the meetings resulted in high attendance, but also incurred food expenses and preparation chores. However, in anticipation of continuance, a budget for the costs was included in the 2020 budget. Rebecca felt that these gatherings were absolutely critical in this bylaw transitional period to make sure that the congregation felt included in the decision process. Kathy Roman felt that these opportunities contributed to a tighter bonding and harmony in the congregation. Helen observed from a pastoral relations view that feedback from the congregation has been positive. Marge has de-emphasized business discussions and voting requirements in future gatherings, although these can certainly be brought up. In all, the Council consensus was that these gatherings should be continued.

Church Council and Team Meeting Times in 2020: Marge asked Council for suggestions on how to reduce administrative meeting time. One idea was for Finance and Budget to meet every other month. Arlene emphasized from her experience that many of the team meetings do not require a Moderator or the Pastor to be present. Helen noted that if more than one team meets after a Sunday service, the Moderator or Pastor cannot effectively spend enough time at each of the meetings. Also, Sunday meetings make for a long day, which reduces attention span and creative thinking.

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Worship Team: Barb announced that Ellen Kely will try to take over the sympathy card ministry. A good evaluation was made of the recent Christmas season; the shortened Christmas Eve vigil period was well received. A need was felt for a social

Stewardship/Visioning: Bowie mentioned that the team discussed at length the last six weeks of conflicting views over the pianist dismissal. They suggested a possible seminar meeting with the Rocky Mountain Conference “conflict resolvers.” A major question was “How would people get a chance to be heard?” Marge offered that she has recently gotten a lot of ideas on dealing with conflict from the Conference. Stewardship suggested that we start conversing with the Conference on how to do this. Current thinking is that the Conference personnel will first meet with CUCC leadership, then with the congregation on a later Sunday. They asked for Council direction. Responses were that it was imperative that we include more than the leadership. Rebecca proposed dates to start the meetings. Saturday, March 7 was chosen for leadership to meet, to be followed by an open meeting with the Congregation on the following day, Sunday, March 8.

Facilities Team: Bowie reported that the Windows Project has gone well and described the remaining finishing details to be done. The team has looked into the usage of the church van, concluded that it was little used, and suggested that it be sold. This would save significant expense for licensing, insurance, and maintenance. The team will prepare it for sale.

Faith Education: Arlene noted that the Sunday Adult Ed study has resulted in interesting discussions for several weeks using the scheduled lectionary scripture for that day. A new book–The Jesus Path–has been received for discussion the next few weeks. A combined discussion using the Sunday scripture and the book content will be tried the next few sessions.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Women’s Missionary Society: Merilee announced that the speaker at the next group meeting will be Connie Gable, making a presentation on diabetes.

VICE-MODERATOR COMMENTS: Kathy Roman commented that she was surprised at the number and variety of things that get done in the church.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Rebecca brought to our attention that she authored a two-page article in the recent January Newsletter in response to recent unrest in the church, which addressed the Pastor’s Ethical Code and Covenant with the church, as well as the every congregant’s covenant and responsibility to the church, to be used as guiding principles. Details of her Call Agreement were also included. She also referenced a book–“A Sure Foundation”–for further reading.

Rebecca announced that the Collegiate Peaks Forum Series in conjunction with CUCC has invited Rev. Bruce Epperly (author of “Thin Places Everywhere,” among others) as a speaker in April. On Friday, April 17, 2020, he will speak on: ***Walk the Earth Lightly: Guideposts for Interspiritual Pilgrims*** at the Buena Vista Community Center, 7:00pm. On Sunday, April 19, 2020, he will lead worship with Rebecca at CUCC and preach on “Spirituality in Everyday Life,” 10:00am.

A detailed description of all of her pastoral visits in the last month was given. Rebecca noted that the “concern list” is at an all-time high, and teamwork in making pastoral visits and meals is needed and greatly appreciated.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND ADJOURNMENT: At Marge’s request, Ron Erickson reflected on a recently published biography of Charles Erwin Matthews entitled “On Being Called,” written by his daughter Marilyn Matthews Bendikson. Ron felt that Matthews, who died at the age of 50, had three great loves in his life: his job as a pastor, his mother, and his daughter. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:52pm.**

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

The CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for January 26, 11:30am after church.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- ~The trash service issue with Waste Management has been finished. We ended up paying the “termination fee,” though not any interest or penalties submitted by the collection agency, as it was deemed the best course of action after all of our communication with Waste Management was ignored.
- ~The same rollers that are in the sanctuary will be installed over the three windows in the fellowship hall. We are looking into upgrading the two French doors and adjoining side lights in the sanctuary with thermal windows and doors.
- ~The video security systems are installed and working well.
- ~Batteries have been replaced in all the smoke/CO detectors. If anyone would like used but usable 9-volt batteries, please contact Mark Wolters.
- ~As the church van is seldom used anymore and costs us about \$1000 per year, it’s been decided to sell it.
- Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair