

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am MST—YouTube

[CUCCBuenaVistaCO](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUCCBuenaVistaCO)

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, 2021



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

I want to begin my term as Moderator by introducing myself. My husband, Herb, and I have lived in Buena Vista for eight years. We visited BV a year earlier, decided this was where we wanted to spend our retirement years, and purchased a lot. While we visited, we attended CUCC on a week you hosted a guest speaker, and everyone present that day made us feel very welcome. We were both born in Warren, Ohio, where we lived for over 40 years. Herb's job took us to El Paso, Texas, for 18 years prior to settling here. Our only child, Brian, lives in Wimberley, Texas, working for a large Southern Baptist church doing sound and video. To put a face with a name, I have been your YouTube Lector.

I grew up in the Disciples of Christ church (except for three years in a Methodist church because my mother thought the choir was better). Every summer for seven years I attended my denomination's summer camp. I loved that experience, the campers were encouraged to explore and interpret the scriptures, rather than be tied to a church's strict interpretation, just like the United Church of Christ.

I know that I am stepping into the role of Moderator at a time when we, as a church family, are experiencing difficulties. I also realize this is not something new, but has been going on for a number of years. The COVID-19 situation greatly delayed the Listening Sessions and the Council's action on the recommendations, but know that we have met in special sessions to simply vision for our future and decide in which direction we want to lead all of you. We have solicited input from both those who have joined CUCC and those who are faithful without making the formal commitment.

One morning in December, while looking into my bathroom mirror, I thought of "I Dream of Jeannie" and "Bewitched" and wished I could nod my head or wiggle my nose and turn us into a church where all members were on the same page, we loved and respected each other's views, and we allowed nothing to divide us. Then I realized that could not come into being without the leadership of God and our own hard work. The motto of the United Church of Christ comes from John 17:21: "That they may all be one." Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work, together. As John Donne said, "No man is an island entire...every man is part of the main."

Merilee Daugherty, Moderator



YOUTUBE WORSHIP

Live at 9:00am (MST)

Our YouTube worship is always happening! [CUCCBuenaVistaCO](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUCCBuenaVistaCO)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR!

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

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

PASTOR'S ARTICLE, February, 2021
ENGAGE * EXTEND * EXPLORE * EMBRACE

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
“Plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.”* (Jeremiah 29)

What do *you* think God's plans for our beloved community called CUCC might be?! We've been living in such unpredictable and unprecedented times that it's easy to feel tossed to and fro and hard to hope and dream and imagine what God might have in mind for us. But perhaps God does not feel tossed to and fro at all. “Surely, I know the plans I have for you *and* if you search for me, you will find me.” I wonder if God, instead of being tossed about, is patiently rolling along with us on the waves of the times, steadfast, sure and holding us close, like a loving parent rocking a child in a boat.

Your Church Council and leadership teams have been searching with all our hearts for God's presence, leading and guiding since CUCC was birthed 140 years ago. Wise, wonderful, creative conversations have been happening in many circles, over the phone wires, over Zoom gatherings, in generative emails and even texts. COVID closures and a bit (or a lot!) of chaos in the world around us have not slowed Christ's Church down from seeking God's presence and path, serving and loving God and our neighbor, and finding our future with hope and faithfulness.

How do *you* imagine yourself rocking on the boat *with* us, as we sail into the hopeful future that God is leading us to? Consider these ways of rocking together:

ENGAGE –

How might you engage or re-engage more fully in the life of the church? Even in the comfort and safety of your home. Have you checked out our online Worship on a Sunday or any day of the week? Worship is now possible seven days a week! In February we will walk with Jesus from blindness to sight in our series “Seeing is Healing.” Our Coffee Hour Circle is warm and drawing a wider circle every week. Come, see smiling faces from around the country—you'll find old friends and new who want to engage with you!

EXTEND –

How might we extend a hand of help or invitation beyond our “doors”? Invite your friends and family to join us for any of the many ways we gather! Friends we haven't met yet, folks we have missed who wish to engage anew. We have sisters and aunts, uncles and cousins joining in our conversations and explorations. We are learning of extensive needs in our community, such as persons experiencing homelessness amidst limited resources. Can we extend Jesus' love even broader than we have before?

EXPLORE –

Even though we are “enclosed at home” at the moment, there are mission trips and projects and worlds to explore just around the bend. We are a “mission church,” and we want to get back to taking Christ's love on the road near and far in the coming months and years. Share your ideas and let's explore together!

While staying home, we're also traveling on exciting adventures in our education offerings and conversations. Exploration of new ideas and approaches to scripture and other cultures and life and faith experiences is happening all around and among us! Stay tuned for ways to explore all year long.

EMBRACE –

We experience God's embrace and embrace others when we nourish all our souls with Soul Soup & Prayer throughout Lent. Learn about prayer, practice different kinds of prayer, worship virtually with our brothers and sisters in Christ while tending to our Center.

See you at church! Blessings, Rebecca

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

CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

HOLLOWAY—NEW PHONE NUMBER

Norm & Shirl's new phone number is **830-998-5896**. I'm sure they'd love to hear from you!

VIVIAN YORK'S EYE

Vivian's eye is healing very well and impressing the doctors! No more patch, and she is able to resume activities. Vivian is elated and sends thanks for all the prayers, love, and support from CUCC.

CARD SHOWER FOR CHARLOTTE SMITH

Charlotte celebrates her 99th birthday on Tuesday, February 2. Wouldn't it be fun for her to get 99 cards? Let's make that happen! I'm sure she'd be happy to get cards all year long!

Mail to **129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211**.

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

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

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 14—Ellen Kely & Bob Stocker



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

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
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
Rod Struthers—Healing
Ron & Linda Rak—Comfort in the loss of Linda's mother
The Family of George Barnett—Comfort
Betty Gwynn—Healing
Vivian York—Healing
Friend of Barb Wilder—Healing
The Family of Diane Bails—Comfort
Julia Munson (sister-in-law of Adele Jackson)—Healing



CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Your continued support is
always appreciated!

Always welcome:

Tuna — Chef Boyardee
Juice Boxes — Fruit Cups
Pudding Cups — Granola or Cereal Bars

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

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

I give thanks to God for each one of you who have been so faithful in carrying out the mission of the Women's Missionary Society to serve and care for others. You have been God's hand of mercy when others need support. This is what draws us together in community. I ask you to join with me in praying for an answer to the devastation of the virus that has been so destructive to our world this past year and that we might return to a "time of trust," not "fear."

I know the anxieties we have all faced this year, but we have been able to be a worshipping community in a whole new way. Our mission remains the same—to help others and to grow in our own spiritual core and in a deeper relationship to God and Christ. I was deeply touched by these words delivered by poet Amanda Gorman, age 22, at the Inauguration on January 20th.

"So we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.
We close the divide, because we know to put our future first,
we must first put our differences aside.
We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another;
we seek harm to none and harmony for all."

Shalom,
Marge Erickson, President



view from the Mountain

“HUGGY BEAR”

I met her on the beach as she walked her Black Lab Tessie. I knew right away that she was someone I'd like to know better, so it was a great surprise to discover that she and her family lived two condos down from ours. That made it easier to make friends.

We planned to meet the next day—same time, same place on the beach. But when we met that day, she was very quiet. To break the silence, I asked her if they lived here year round? My new friend was so gracious. She said, “My husband, as we stand here, is dying from lung cancer. I just ran home from the hospital to walk the dog.”

I stood very still. I wanted to hug my new friend, but wasn't sure whether she would want an invasion of space at that moment.

She obviously needed to talk, so she said, “We're from out-of-state, but my husband wanted to spend his last days at the beach, and it was right to come. My husband tells me every day, ‘Thank you for doing this. I already feel like I'm in heaven.’”

After we parted, I could think of nothing else, so I wrote her a note and slipped it under her door. One day later she called me to say that her husband had left this world that very day. And then she said, “Jean, I have to tell you a wondrous true story. When our son David came to spend our last few days together, he brought with him a teddy bear. He thought his sister or mother would want something to hold. When his dad slipped into a coma, David removed it from his dad's bed and just held it. His dad didn't need it anymore.”

But then an amazing thing happened in that Stuart, Florida hospital. It seems that in that hospital there is a policy that whenever a baby is born there, “Rock-A-Bye, Baby” is played over the hospital stereo, and it enters into every room and corridor of that facility. One minute after her husband Marv died, a new baby entered this world in the same hospital and “Rock-A-Bye, Baby” floated into the room, gentling their sadness, rocking their souls.

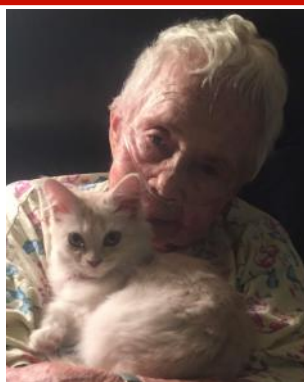
The nurse in the room said, “Isn't it amazing. It looks like God takes one of his own home and immediately sends another soul in its place.”

All the while my friend was holding the huggy bear. She looked at each of their children, the nurse and at her beloved husband. The three women walked to the maternity ward and found the young mother who had just delivered her baby. She was holding her baby close to her breast. They told her the story of the huggy bear, and with genuine smiles born of the inner peace and understanding of something profound, my friend held out the bear and gave it to the baby. In doing so, she touched the baby's arm and a calm, a strength, came over her. It was definitely a God moment.

What a gift this woman I really did not even know gave to me and to all of us. This is a story of death that is positive, upbeat, and gives us hope. Life truly does go on and is a never-ending circle, and each of us is an integral part of this circle. This helps me to live my life with a little more grace, and it also has given me the wonder of making a new friend in such a life-changing moment.

The view from the mountain is wondrous!

Jean Brody



APPRECIATIONS

KUDOS KOLUMN



Kudos to ALL staff and officers and leaders of CUCC as we celebrate our Annual Meeting and launch into a new and exciting new year! The work all-year-long, records, communication, maintenance and beautification, tracking of finances, worship & music online and in-person, and outstanding leadership of ALL kinds cannot be celebrated and appreciated enough!!! KUDOS to YOU, CUCC!

WAY TO GO, CUCC! GIVE YOURSELF A HAND!!



As we close out our financial year, I was struck by our charitable giving as a church. Did you know that over and above our budgeted contributions to the CUCC's 5for5 Fund, YOU contributed a WHOPPING \$4,499.00!! and of that total, \$444.00 came from the WMS from Annual Bazaar profits and Blessing Boxes? These amounts do not even include our mostly unrecorded cash and food contributions to the Backpack Program, as well as to the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission.

As you can see, we are a generous community, grateful for our blessings and "passing it on" to the greater community. We may have to make changes to the way we DO church, but the way we ARE church remains intact. I am so proud of you and I stand in AWE of your steadfast generosity.

Kathy Roman, 2020 Moderator

THANK YOU FROM JUDY

Dear CUCC choir friends,

I am so blessed! Your friendship and appreciation goes above and beyond what I've ever experienced...ever! I am so grateful to be a part of the services at CUCC and a part of the choir family.

Thank you for the gifts at Christmas. Can't wait 'til we are “normal” again. Stay well. Strive to make a difference everyday !

Sincerely,
Judy Phelps

THANK YOU FOR GIFT CARDS



An unknown church “elf” left early Christmas presents in the form of Simple Eatery gift cards towards the end of last year. The recipients want you to know, whoever you are, that they are very touched and grateful. You brightened their day!

THANK YOU FROM HABITAT

Your recent gift of \$500 means you understand how important affordable housing is to our community. Without you, we could not fulfill our mission to provide decent, affordable housing to deserving families in Chaffee County. We and those we serve sincerely appreciate your generosity. Thank you for your continued support of CCHFH.

Sincerely,
Jill Smola, Executive Director

INSPIRATION CORNER

A MOMENT FOR SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Saying "Yes"

I don't know Who, or what, put the question; I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone, or Something, and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal.

– Dag Hammarskjöld

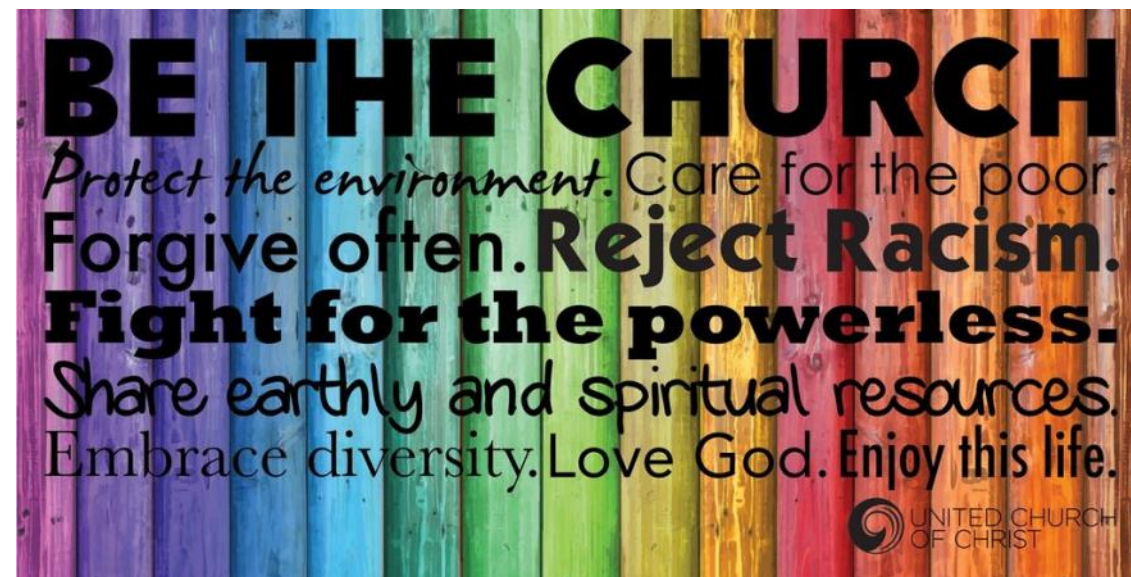
We need to say "yes" to life. When Jesus said, "follow me," the disciples said "yes." When God asked, "who shall I send?", Isaiah said, "send me." When Samuel heard God's call, he said, "Speak God, your servant is listening."

Saying "yes" to God awakens us to a whole world of possibility. When we say "yes" to our lives, life becomes more exciting, meaningful, purposeful, and we discover our own power and agency to change the world – to be God's hands and feet, as Teresa of Avila proclaims.

Where is God calling you today? The events of your life call for a decision, an affirmation of God's purposes. Whether 97 or 7, healthy or dealing with illness, on the road or stuck in our homes, God is calling. Ponder today where you need to say "yes" and then make a commitment and let God's energy and wisdom course through your lives, bringing you energy, purpose, and love.

PRAYER: Guide us toward your realm of love and peace one step at a time. Let me say "yes" to life in its wonder and claim my role as your hands and feet. In Christ's name. Amen.

~Bruce Epperly



CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN SERVICES

Nourishing our Souls With (Virtual) Soup & Prayer

Grace Church and CUCC invite you to our shared Lenten Worship and Reflection on Prayer & Healing Wednesdays in Lent, 6:00-7:00 pm (MST) via ZOOM.

Starting Ash Wednesday Worship Feb. 17 - Final Healing Service, March 24th

Request the Zoom link here: office.bvcucc@gmail.com.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

Financial Secretary Kay has prepared the end-of-year giving statements and mailed out those that go out-of-town and to folks that might not be able to pick theirs up at the church. For the rest of you, yours are available on the table in the narthex.

HELP NEEDED FOR BY-LAWS UPDATE

Our current By-Laws were approved at our Annual Meeting in 2007. There were revisions made at Annual Meetings in 2012 and 2014. It is time to have a committee convened to make additional revisions, if not a complete re-write. We have been operating with Teams instead of Boards, times have changed, and we need to find more up-to-date methods to hold meetings, there is dated wording, etc. We would keep what is still pertinent and change that which is not.

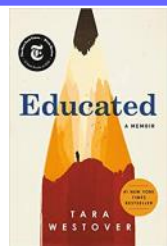
In 2006 the Council convened an eight-person committee comprised of four non-board members and one member from each of our four boards. Part of the impetus for this rewrite was a search for a new pastor. The Search paperwork asked us to identify the most challenging event in the life of our church in the last three years. The head of the Search Committee went back to 2002 when a longtime pastor retired.

The Search Committee noted that "While that pastor was effective, strong and vital, he did not involve the members outside the Diaconate, Board of Trustees, and Council in planning and directing functions." When he left, "the church was ill-prepared to govern, plan and administer programs." At that time, the previous By-Laws were put aside and new ones written in 2006, "adding new boards and committees."

That Search paperwork also states, "We have begun to learn how important each of us is to the success of the church and how critical each of our individual roles is to the mission of the church. We now must begin to integrate the two. We have learned more about ourselves and how important tolerance and compassion are to not only personal relationships, but also our relationship to our church and its programs. ...we have come to realize that we must learn to discuss our feelings and positions on various issues and become more tolerant of differing opinions." I think the above words are very pertinent to us today.

If anyone is interested in working on the By-Laws, please contact me at 719-966-2004. Merilee Daugherty, Moderator

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



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



The group is reading
"Educated" by Tara Westover.

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUCCBuenaVistaCO).

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?
pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBDVT
Mydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBDVTMydz09)

Meeting ID: **927 8280 8568**
Passcode: **019834**

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**

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

COVID VACCINE

The COVID vaccine is available at BV Drug. Go to their website at bvdrug.net to register. For non-computer people, they will sign them up at the store. If you need help registering, call Nancy in the office. She can register you using BV Drug's on-line sign-up tool.

Why You
Don't See
Crocodiles
In The
Orchestra



WOMENS MISSIONARY SOCIETY HISTORY FROM MARY KELLY, as told to Suzy Kelly

The Missionary women offered to oil the building. Norman Knudson gave us a barrel of the right kind of oil and put a pump in it. We filled our five gallon buckets, took them to the kitchen, and our dear Consti Downs, who was just home from surgery, watched the oil get to the right heat on the stove. With big brushes and any kind of ladder, we really gave it a soaking. Charlotte Smith and I were delegated to varnish the window and door facing on the South Side. (I hate painting, although I gave the kitchen the first varnish coat.) We laid tile in the sanctuary, and later put down carpet donated by the Ed Riffles (Settle Motel) and Eastern Star. Some of the women cut pieces, pieced them, and laid them in the Sunday School rooms.

We served many big dinners to various clubs and organizations, i.e. the Cattlemen, Soil Conservation, and a special Christmas dinner to the Sangre de Cristo employees. These were not only money-making projects, but also a time of stewardship and fellowship. They enabled us to buy tables and chairs, build cabinets, and finish the kitchen to its present state.

The first time we held the Bazaar and Rummage Sale in the new building, it wasn't proving very successful, so Rita Alen, our first Woman Moderator, put on a most outlandish hat and a feather boa and someone drove her down Main Street. She put her head out the window and told people where to come to find wonderful things and an inexpensive home-cooked meal. Come they did, and each year has proven more successful. A great many people come for the fellowship, as well as the bargains.

We also had an outstanding Mission project. We sponsored two Korean girls through school, until terrorists demolished the school and put the orphans out on the street. Some were even sent to a leper colony.

CUCC REPORTS

Stewardship/Visioning Team News

The Team did not meet in January, but never fear, we're still working on what needs to be done even without a formal meeting. We wish you a lovely February!

Bob Stocker

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

A new large Smart TV paid for by a grant from the UCC and Memorial Funds from the Lowe Family has been installed in the Fellowship Hall.

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

Conversations That Matter will continue with the series *ACTING AGAINST RACISM: Conversation Guide*, published by the Christian Century. Hard copies are on the table in the narthex. Please join us on Zoom, Sundays at 4:00pm MST.

Next for CTM is *WHO STOLE MY BIBLE: Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for resisting Tyranny*, by Jennifer Butler. The book shows us the story from Genesis to Revelation through imaginative storytelling grounded in Biblical scholarship. Contact cucc.conversations@icloud.com to get on the email and Zoom link list.

The TELLS group continues to read *EDUCATED* by Tara Westover. Contact Rebecca to get on the email and Zoom link list. All women are invited.

Betsy Neas

Worship Team

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services with Grace Church will be via Zoom this year. A link will be in the weekly blasts. They will be from 6:00pm-7:00pm Wednesdays beginning February 17, with the last one on March 24. Please see the box elsewhere in this newsletter with more information.

Linda Rak

Finance and Budget Team February News

The Finance Team is continuing to keep an eye on how the COVID situation is affecting income and expenses so that each piece of the budget is where it should be.

Bill Waldorf

Outreach/Community & World Team News—February greetings!

The Team did not meet virtually in January, but we can report the following:

-- We kept our commitments to our denomination with 5 for 5 offering participation; a total of \$7,988.00 was sent to the Rocky Mtn Conference during 2020.

-- The Backpack Program continues amidst the pandemic with 56 bags distributed weekly.

-- The Arkansas Valley Christian Mission, Chaffee County Habitat, and the Chaffee County Homeless Coalition received generous donations of food and cash from CUCC members and friends.

-- Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be hosting the Lenten Soup suppers this February and March with Grace Church in BV. Pastor Rebecca and Rev. Catherine Tran plan Wednesday evening prayer services on Zoom—Spirit for the Soul. All members and friends of both congregations are strongly encouraged to attend.

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



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

Please join us as we continue our discussion: "Acting Against Racism" Conversation Guide from The Christian Century.

Click [here](#) for the guide or pick up a hard copy from the table in the narthex.

For questions, comments, get on the list, or to receive the Zoom link, contact:
cucc.conversations@icloud.com

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!

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!

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**.

CUCC Council Minutes - January 20, 2021

7:07pm 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, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Merilee Daugherty, Helen Duncan, Ron Hassell, Donna Maloney, Betsy Neas, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf

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

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the December 16 regular Council meeting were amended to strike the line approving the non-existing December 2 Meeting Minutes.

Clerk's Report: Ron reported no changes to the congregation since the beginning of the year.

Treasurer's Report: Finance Team Chair Bill Waldorf reported that the 2021 Proposed Budget was finalized and copies are available in the church narthex for pickup and review as part of the Annual Meeting packet. The December Income Statement and Balance Sheet have also been printed and are available as an addendum to the packet. The 2021 Proposed Budget expenditures are \$725 less than the 2020 Approved Budget. Due to significant disruptions in operations and reduced General Contribution income due to the loss of several contributors and modified worship services during the pandemic, our church ended the year with a deficit of \$10,753. Current reserves of almost \$46,000 will cover the 2020 deficit. Reserves were increased during the year by about \$12,000 due to the sale of the church van. The 2021 Proposed Budget anticipates a deficit of \$5,400, caused in part by substantial increases in Property and Casualty Insurance and uncertainties in contribution income. A deficit is likely despite a reduction in Pastor Health Insurance of over \$4,000.

Moderator's Report: Kathy said that she had been attending recent RMC church moderators meetings on Zoom. Some findings were that many other UCC churches are in operating situations similar to ours. She offered special thanks to the virtual YouTube production team of Matthew and Donna Maloney, Merilee Daugherty, Jacy & Thomas Doumas, and Pastor Rebecca for consistent, reliable Sunday services.

Also thanks to Donna Maloney for accepting the chairmanship of the Faith Education Team, and to Mark & Alice Wolters for necessary snow removal at the church. Mark was also recognized for his leadership of the Strategic Planning Team which was responsible for the closing and re-opening of the church building beginning last March, a brief re-opening this past fall and subsequent closure, all determined by coronavirus activity and considerations for the safety of our congregation. In a point of personal privilege, Kathy thanked Council members for their cooperation, collaboration and support. She was applauded for her steadfast, positive leadership during a year of challenges.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Kathy reiterated that the Annual Congregational Meeting is set for January 31 at 11:00am and noted that the annual report has been prepared and printed.

Personal Contacts Comments: Betsy Neas suggested that we be aware of congregational needs for transportation to the COVID vaccination sites, such that we might be able to assist.

Purpose and Mission Statement: It was suggested that the Council hold a special meeting on February 3 to specifically discuss revising the church's Mission & Vision statement. The easy-to-remember one-line UCC statement on the web page was nominated as a great start.

Bylaws Revision Committee: Merilee proposed to form a team to work on revising the bylaws this spring. She suggested it be comprised of one member from each church team and two congregational members-at-large.

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Outreach Team: Helen Duncan reported that the final "5for5" UCC special offering for the Christmas Fund was received and that contributions of more than \$7,000 from our church for the five funds have been sent to the UCC. The team's next priority will be the first "5for5" promotion for this year: One Great Hour of Sharing. However, she wants us to keep in mind that there are other local community needs that continue to be critical due to the pandemic.

Rebecca added that we can continue to make a positive difference in people's lives locally as well, by coordinating with the well-organized Arkansas Valley Mission and CUCC's Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which received a generous donation at year-end. This Fund is used for one-time assistance to folks needing more than food, such as gasoline for going to work, rent and utility assistance, and small donations for ongoing needs. She asked church leaders to alert her to situations of people in need beyond what the Mission can provide.

Worship Team: Linda Rak had no additions to the current virtual services.

Facilities Team: Ron Hassell reaffirmed that LED light replacements steadily continue to save energy. A new large Smart TV paid for by a grant from the UCC and Memorial Funds from the Lowe Family has been installed and is almost ready for use in the Fellowship Hall. The parsonage garage door repairs and replacing of the parsonage microwave are the next priorities.

Faith Education Team: Betsy Neas noted that the current program "Acting Against Racism" is going well and will continue for three more weeks. A new program will be selected to start on February 14. Rebecca announced that Lenten virtual services via Zoom will be coordinated with Grace Church, starting Ash Wednesday February 17 and going through March 24. The topic is Reflection on Prayer & Healing.

Affiliated Organizations—Women's Missionary Society: Merilee noted no plans to meet for the near future. The Church Bazaar is projected to be held sometime after Easter. Information and organizing plans will be forthcoming. A key element to be included is the raffle of one or more handmade craft items.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Salaries: Discussion was held to consider continuing the services of the custodian and pianist. The question of whether there is enough work for continued employment with the current lock-down of the church building was discussed. Also discussed was the possibility of applying for a PPP grant to continue to cover and protect our employees in the coming year with budget fluctuations. In discussion, Rebecca and others emphasized that our employees are quite talented in what they do and would be hard to replace. We should also consider that they are a part of our community, rely on their faithful relationship with the church, and deserve a longer-term commitment for security in their lives. As we are seeking to help those in need due to COVID, we have opportunities right in our own church family.

Following discussion, ***Mark amended the motion on the floor by Helen/Betsy seconded to continue to pay Leonard and Judy through 2021, except if circumstances arise that wouldn't allow us to do so; at which time we will give them 60 days' notice as to the change. Motion passed.***

Pastor's Report

Rebecca shared all the ongoing happenings in the congregation, in spite of COVID and "enclosure time" for many. CUCC's YouTube channel has a name now and 100+ subscribers, and the technical quality keeps improving every week. Online education and conversation groups are growing and widening their outreach.

Worship leaders and caregivers in the congregation have been stepping-up during Rebecca's "at home time" following foot surgery. Rebecca and Clarke greatly appreciate all the meals, assistance, visits, and care during this time and recent loss of Clarke's mother Jean Brody—for them and the entire congregation. Rebecca has been able to continue working uninterrupted, thanks to teamwork and technology.

Prayer Concerns/Updates: Rebecca shared new pastoral concerns from Betty Gwynn's family and others. She updates the congregation every Sunday during Coffee Hour, so did not repeat those concerns due to the late hour. She also reported a larger concern for all pastors everywhere that they might all be vaccinated very soon, so that congregations and pastors can be together safely. UPDATE: Rebecca was able to get vaccinated, thanks to Lesley Fagerberg's help!

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:24pm.

Next Visioning meeting for Council is scheduled for Feb. 3, 7:00pm via Zoom.

Next regular Council Meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021, 7:00pm via Zoom.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

