

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Worship Schedule

In Person 10:00am (MDT)

9:00am MDT and anytime on 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

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.
(CUCC's Mission, Identity & Purpose)



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
June 2021



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Summer arrives this month and we have been able to meet in person since April 11. How glorious it is to once again be together. Our 'Welcome Back Everyone' worship and first quarter meeting May 16 allowed me to update you all on what the Council has been working on. Since I was quite expansive about our focus on Mission in the April newsletter, I need to talk a little about the other two focuses for 2021.

Extravagant Welcome: No matter what someone's race, gender, sexual orientation, etc., we will greet people at the door, encourage them to sign the guest book, and give them a Welcome bag. We will have name tags and contact cards available. We will walk them into the sanctuary, introduce and seat them with someone from the congregation, and encourage them to stay for coffee hour. Your role? Become involved with our visitor. When at coffee hour, don't sit with your same old group, but get to know some of the other worshipers. We also want to reach out to groups that use our church and those whom we serve in mission by inviting them to attend and share information about themselves and their group. We want to seek out new and existing community members and encourage them to attend. Perhaps create a 'Welcome' video on our YouTube page? We want to learn more about others who have a different gender identity, race, religion, etc. The more we know about "others" and their views and experiences, the more comfortable and understanding we will be with them. Romans 15:7: Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Education: We want to take every opportunity to connect with our congregation, to educate them in what their Council, Teams, Committees are doing in the church and community. We want to be as transparent and available as we possibly can. The Faith Education Team is seeking ideas for future discussions. If Conversations That Matter (CTM) does not interest you, what does? There certainly can be more than one small group learning together. Grace Church offers Bible studies for both men and women, as announced in the May and June newsletters. Tuesday Evening Ladie's Literary Society (TELLS) welcomes all women to read a common book and discuss it. You can educate us by sharing your mission experience, what you did and learned. Send your information to Nancy for publication in the newsletters. The Strategic Planning Team (SPT) continually educates themselves to make decisions regarding resuming indoor and outdoor services, outside groups using our facilities, safety measures that need to be instituted or continued. You can educate your elected church leaders: what do you like, what issues do you see, what role would you like to take to support this church?

Notice how all three focus areas are linked?

"It is contact with others which teaches man all he knows." Euripides

Merilee Daugherty, Moderator

CUCC TWO WAYS TO WORSHIP!

YOUTUBE WORSHIP

Live Sundays at 9:00am MDT (and anytime thereafter)
Our YouTube worship is always happening! [CUCCBuenaVistaCO](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUCCBuenaVistaCO)

ON THE GREEN AT CUCC!

10:00am
If the weather is bad, we will move inside.

PASTOR’S ARTICLE, June 2021

*Extravagant Welcome

*Mission

*Education

“*Growing Back Singing at the Speed of Enough!*”

“*June is bustin’ out all ohhhh---ver....!*” It’s finally sunny and pleasant as I write this from my front porch on May 18, and it makes me feel like singing. I am enjoying the beauty of flowers hanging in baskets, countless varieties of bird songs, warm sun shining on my shoulders, and a light breeze reminding me of the Spirit’s presence that we celebrate with Pentecost. Whew! It’s been a long “Fool’s Spring” of cold and snow and even enough rain to cause mud and rock slides.

I have longed to soak in all this beauty and warmth. It feels like it’s taken forever to come. I didn’t find it in Portland, either. Even though May is glorious there with dogwoods and azaleas in bloom, the cold and rain kept me indoors and shivering. And, yes, in Bawnie as we’ve gotten rainstorms and many clouds, I am incredibly grateful for the moisture when other places are already suffering from wildfires. I pray we and others won’t have to breathe smoke all summer long, and all this cool, moist weather will be the best blessing ever.

Speaking of birds singing....isn’t it wonderful to sing together at Church on the Green?! We’ve always known that singing together in worship and anytime and anywhere is a core value for CUCC—it’s part of our DNA—who we ARE. I am so grateful for vaccines and masks and all the hard work of everyone staying safe through COVID so we can come back together now and no one is missing. And we get to sing together again!

A funny thing has been happening to me over this past year. I’ve always had songs and hymns come into my head without bidding, but it’s usually a *variety* of songs. This time is different. Every time I get off the phone or out of a Zoom or in-person meeting or visit, or reflect on a conversation or interaction about our life together as a church family, I start singing:

*“When we walk with the Lord, in the Light of his Word....Trust and obey...
for there’s no other way.....to be happy in Jesus....but to trust and obey!”*

Whether the conversation has been challenging or completely heartwarming and uplifting (as many of them are!), this song comes around, reminding me to keep walking with Jesus, stay centered in God’s guidance, and trust the path that the Holy One is leading us all on—in our own lives and in our life in community.

For though we have not lost congregational members to COVID, as many churches have, we have had no end of challenges in other ways. Serious illness, surgeries, accidents, and pain and loss due to isolation, death, and economic crises in our world have made this a difficult year for every soul. Please continue to reach out and check on and care for one another as we have been doing this year and every year, but especially in this tender and tenuous time.

And keep on singing! This summer, we will sing our hearts out. Our theme is “Blessed Assurance of the Old, Old Story.” As we come back together as a community, we will remind ourselves of the heart of our faith, the scriptures and teachings that tell us who and Whose we are, and sing the songs that come to mind in all the ups and downs, twists and turns of life. Let’s share together along the way: What scriptures and songs bring you back to your center? Remind you that you are a beloved child of God, never alone? Ground your faith, make you sing in the night—whether seeking comfort and reassurance, or praising the God of our Life with gratitude? Share those with us and we will hear those scriptures and sing those hymns together!

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.....This is my story, this is my song....
Praising my Savior all the day long....*

Blessings, Rebecca

PASTOR/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
Kathy Roman Ron Erickson

Education: To inform the congregation of what the teams and council are doing, we publish meeting minutes and team updates in the Newsletter. The Faith Education team is offering discussions through Conversations that Matter and the TELLS group. Bible studies at Grace Church are mentioned in the Newsletter. Merilee emphasized that education is a two-way street: We need to know what you like about the church, what issues you see within the church, and what education opportunities you would like to see.

4. Four of the Council recently participated in a Healthy Congregations workshop, where we were introduced to skills that could help us deal with what the Listening Team called out as scapegoating, bullying, defensiveness, and the tension between the need to be heard and the need to have one’s opinion adopted or confirmed.

5. On Saturday, May 22 8:45 - 4:30pm, all of the congregation have an opportunity to participate in a workshop screened here in the church titled “Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches.” It is free and all were encouraged to attend.

Some areas still needing work include:

1. An intentional covenant of behavior between our congregants, leadership, and pastor.
2. Building trust, a process that should never end.
3. Methods for evaluating the pastor and the congregation as a whole.

Merilee impressed upon everyone that this church has taken seriously the feedback from the RMC Listening Team and have put in the time to get us back on the track to being healthy.

Closing Prayer

Merilee concluded with a prayer thanking and calling on God for support, encouragement, and help in applying what we have learned in the coming weeks.

Prepared by Merilee Daugherty and Ron Rak

LA FORET OPEN FOR CAMPS!

Visit <https://www.laforet.org/events> or call 719-822-7243 for registration and more information.

Grand Camp—July 2-4

For grandkids ages 5-11 and the grandparent(s) or grandparent surrogates

Celebrating the special bond between grandkids and grandparents through games, crafts, campfires, worship and more!

Contemplative Camp—July 18-24

Facilitated by RMC's Rev. Sally Palmer

BRAND NEW Wholeness & Wellness Weekend—August 27-29

This diverse new event features many offerings from many different hosts. Whether it's hiking, yoga, creative expression, meditation, or one of the many other offerings, there's something for everyone.

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.

(CUCC’s Mission, Identity & Purpose)



view from the Mountain

“THE ULTIMATE UNDERSTANDING”

From 1995—Lately I cry over the smallest things. I’ve always felt deeply, but now it takes very little to turn on the tears. Do you know the comic strip “For Better or For Worse?” If so, you recall the family dog Farley—the big, soft, galoot of a canine that saved the life of April? I guess we don’t expect comic strips to be like real life. In the strip and in real life, Farley was eighteen years old and it was time to die.

Maybe it would not have hit me so hard if my own grandpa hadn’t just died, but he had, and I cried. The father in the comic strip was explaining to his daughter that we all have a limited time on earth and none of us knows how long we have to live. I put the paper down, dried my tears, and mulled over his words. My grandpa lived ninety-six years and enjoyed most of it, though he didn’t like the restrictions extreme old age imposed on him. This was real life just like in “For Better or For Worse.”

Could it be that I prefer make believe to real life where everything and everybody lives on and on and loves every minute of it? Yup, it certainly could be. When I picked up my paper again, there before me was “Calvin and Hobbes.” They were looking up at the vastness and the wonder of the stars and moon. That was frame number one. Then in frame number two they’re back inside the house surrounded by the TV, the VCR, the telephone and the microwave, all to which Hobbs says, “That is why we stay inside with our gadgets. We understand them and they make us feel safe.”

Well, once again, I put the paper aside. That’s it! We feel safer when we are in control and all of the modern gadgets are man-made and I control them all. So I stay inside looking outside to the heavens and feel very small and insignificant and definitely know without a doubt that we are not in control of that.

It’s sort of like death. Whereas we can take care of our physical bodies, we still cannot prevent that day from coming and we know it.

It is always a curiosity to me how and why we all pretty much live in denial of the vast reality of death. I admit that I do that. Most people have personal convictions about life after death. Some even prefer to call it life after life. But the fact still remains that we are not in control. It is like leaving the house full of gadgets for the vastness of the ultimate mystery, and it takes courage to leave the door behind us.

Maybe I cry easily because I miss Grandpa and because I have reached the age where I have at last opened the door. From that vantage point I can see clearly the inside of the house and I feel some measure of comfort, while I also see outside the house and all the mysteries out there. It becomes clear to me that we live and we die in little steps, in small stages, losing much of the fear by the time we’ve reached the end. What a merciful thought!

You know, I thought my beliefs about death would be hard to write about. But when I put pen to paper, my heart took over and it freed me to say what I am coming to believe.

The view from the mountain is wondrous!

Jean Brody



CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

LINDSAY NEW ADDRESS

Shelby & Katie Lindsay

125 Columbia Dr.,

Julesburg, CO 80737

Shelby's cell: 970-620-0977

Katie's cell: 719-332-2627

They plan to return to BV and CUCC
in four years.

DORFMEISTER NEWS

Paul has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He is receiving treatment in Wisconsin and would love to hear from you!

Paul Dorfmeister

5522 64th St.

Kenosha, WI 53142

262-344-2414

BETTY GWYNN BACK HOME

Her son Kenny says that she is now home. She’s getting physical or occupational therapies to increase her strength and is in pretty good shape. Betty says “thank you for your concern and prayers.”

29155 CR 331, Buena Vista, CO 81211

LORRAINE GREEN NEW ADDRESS & PHONE

Lorraine has moved to Columbine Manor permanently. Her spirits are good, but she can’t live alone anymore.

Lorraine Green

Columbine Manor

Rm. D6

530 W 16th St.

Salida, CO 81201

719-207-4827



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.

RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

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

The CUCC website, www.bvcucc.org/resources, features a Resources section with information on:

~COVID-19—Being the Church in New Times

~Talking About Race/Seeing in Color

~Chaffee County Community Resources

PASTOR 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:

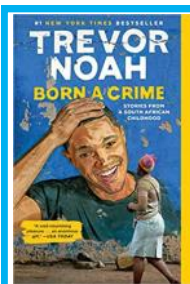
Church Ministry Days: Sunday through Thursday

Family & Sabbath Days: Friday & Saturday

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 at 719-395-2544 to get on the birthday/anniversary list.

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



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



WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT at the LABYRINTH!

Monday, June 21
 10:00am-2:00pm
 Poos' cabin in Fairplay

The TELLs group invites ALL women
 to a Day Retreat:
"Tending our Spirits—Being Enough"

Socially distanced easy walking, sharing,
 and carpooling.
 Bring a lunch!

Talk to Pastor Rebecca for more info.

Note to men: Watch for a co-ed retreat offering later
 this summer.

Let Pastor Rebecca know of your interest!

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.

CHRISTIAN MISSION IN NEED OF FOOD

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 *peanut butter
 *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.



EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME

APPRECIATIONS



KUDOS COLUMN

The Facilities Team and the Virtual
 and Live Worship Teams get kudos
 this month! Through their many
 hours of preparation and their wizard use of
 technology, we can worship both On the Green
 and In the Tube!

THANK YOU FROM LINDA RAK

I want to thank all of you who sent me get well
 cards for my neck surgery. I am doing fine. I
 will see the doctor in Denver on May 21st.
 Hopefully, I will be able to leave the collar off
 permanently. I may need some PT. Thanks for
 all the prayers also. Linda Rak

RMC CONNECTIONS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

2021 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

& BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, June 7—Sunday, June 13

Everyone is invited! Register as a Visitor.

CUCC will cover the cost and delegates.



CHURCH ANEW

We will explore what it means to be Church Anew. The dictionary defines anew as "in a new or
 different and typically more positive way." This year we want to share stories of how we are living
 into a new and different church.

Keynote Speaker: Valerie Kaur - civil rights activist, lawyer, award-winning
 filmmaker, founder of the Revolutionary Love Project, author of *See No
 Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, and Sikh American
 voice.



The Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration for 2021 will feature live
 events on Zoom and sessions on the RMC YouTube channel.

**Conference-Wide Worship on Sunday, June 13—We will still have outdoor worship at
 CUCC that day.**

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.

THE RMC WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER!

Welcome to Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott!

Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott joins the Rocky Mountain Conference as the newest Associate
 Conference Minister, working alongside Rev. Erin Gilmore, Rev. Sue Artt, Daryl Schrieber,
 Janice Travis, and Melissa McCarl.



INSPIRATION CORNER

SPECIAL ARTICLE BY BETSY NEAS

“I’ve been thinking about our church and the direction it is going....”
by Betsy Neas

Several people have asked me, “When are we going to get the results of what we have done as a church from the Listening Session Survey that was done last year?” After talking with Merilee, our Moderator, who presented the results at the Quarterly Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 16, we decided I should write them up for the newsletter. I will be as clear and concise as possible.

SCAPEGOATING - Merilee wrote an article in the May newsletter, so please refer to that. I will add that I think it also includes gossiping. The Bible tells us that if you have a problem with someone, you should go directly to that person and talk about it in a gentle fashion. Scapegoating and gossiping are very destructive to our church. When someone comes to you with either of those inappropriate behaviors, our answer should be to tell them you don’t talk about people behind their back. Someone said that to me and it cured me. You might suggest they speak directly to the person they are talking about.

DEFENSIVENESS - When we are challenged on something, it is so natural to become defensive. I do it, and probably you do, too. However, it’s really important to listen to the person to see what they have to say, and sometimes that is really hard. Rebecca is working on this form of communication with the coach she is seeing, as the Listening Report indicated.

BEING HEARD - All of the Council, as well as Rebecca and the congregation, needs to keep working on this point in the Listening Report. Sometimes our communications skills need a tune-up. Listening deeply to what another has to say is so important. One way the Council has been working on this was to phone the entire congregation to see how each person was doing with the pandemic, find out if folks had any questions about the Listening Report, and to report back to Council in special bi-weekly meetings concerning how those calls went. (Not mentioning individual’s names of course, but talking about the issues.)

DEVELOP CLEAR PROCESSES AND UNDERSTANDING COVENANT - Council first decided to compile a mission, purpose, and identity statement. From December through March, Council met bi-weekly to discuss the concerns of the Congregation, prioritize the direction in which we wanted Rebecca to put her time and energy, and develop 3-5 areas of focus that the church should work toward this year. Council decided on this statement.

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 to live into this, the Council identified three Focus Areas,” wrote Rebecca in the April newsletter. Those focus areas are extravagant welcome, mission, and education. We need to work toward this identity as a pastor, council, and congregation. After attending the “Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches” workshop, the Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee will propose a Conflict Plan. The process to evaluate the pastor, staff, and congregation has yet to be developed.

BUILDING TRUST - This is an ongoing process which has not been easy. However, through phone calls, cards, visitations, worship, and coffee hour on Zoom, there has been constant time spent trying to establish personal relationships. Listening to people through regular phone calls helps. The way we will build trust is by listening, making sure the speaker feels heard, and taking action.

Healing and reconciliation will take everyone’s time and energy. We thank those who took the time to learn more about healing conflicts in the church. We need support groups and opportunities for that healing to take place. That will come as we can meet in-person more. Hopefully we will have more skills to talk with each other on difficult issues.

Please know that your pastor and council are working hard to make our church a vibrant, welcoming congregation that cares about all people.

CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM RAWLINS CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sunday, July 18
2:00pm
On the Green at CUCC
More Information to follow.

COMPOSTING AT CUCC

Got to <http://www.elementscompost.com/residential-composting.html> to sign up for your 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



BACKPACK PROGRAM IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Whoops! How did that happen? Lo and behold, the funds for the Backpack Program, have become quite low, so it’s time to remember this dear-to-our-hearts program and beef up its resources so it can continue to feed our local kids. And in case you’re wondering, the program does continue through the summer via the Boys & Girls Club.

Thank you so much!

PS Please continue to donate your plastic shopping bags– they’ll always have a home with the program. :)



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Your continued support is very much appreciated!

Always welcome:

Tuna — Chef Boyardee

Juice Boxes — Fruit Cups

Pudding Cups — Granola or Cereal Bars



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Now is the time we contribute to the UCC 5-for-5 Strengthen the Church campaign. This special fund re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence and also provides support for existing churches' new initiatives. There are envelopes in the narthex and church office. You can also utilize the tithe.ly app on your phone.

RECYCLING AT CUCC SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM

Now that Angel of Shavano Recycling is gone, CUCC has joined Chaffee County Waste's recycling program and is bringing it to you! Yes! You! There is now a recycling dumpster (YELLOW LID) next to the trash dumpster in the CUCC parking lot. For \$8/month, you will receive the code to that dumpster, a list of what you can and cannot put in there (from the CCW website), and the convenience of single-stream recycling. Yay! No more dividing your recyclables! Simply tip your container in and smile. :) The recycling is picked up every other week. (Don’t dump your bag in with the stuff—empty the bag of stuff into the dumpster and reuse your bag!)

CUCC REPORTS

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

We will meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 6:00pm in person, with the first gathering June 13 in the AE room at CUCC. Rebecca will lead a discussion on "Sexuality and Scripture." And see the blurb elsewhere about the new Nurturing Joy class led by Molly Stuart!

Donna Maloney, Chair

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

This committee of Ann Condra, Kathy Roman, and Mark Wolters, accompanied by Moderator Merilee Daugherty, has met four times as of May 19, 2021. Our goal is to meet twice a month for ninety minutes per session. As of this writing, we are approximately half way through the current bylaws dated April, 2015. Upon completion, we will submit our revisions to the council for their suggestions/approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Wolters

Outreach/Community & World Team News —June greetings!

~The Backpack Program is preparing 64 packs each week for Chaffee County High School, The Grove pre-school, and the Boys & Girls Club.
~The Coffee Project/Equal Exchange has a balance of \$243.20. Coffee is available in the special closet in the AE room at CUCC—self-serve. When the balance allows, Ron Rak will donate a box to Holy Joe's café.
~The Arkansas Valley Christian Mission continues to accept donations, but lunches are not being served as a health precaution due to COVID-19.
~Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program/Bob Dwyer's Children's Fund: Angelo Abellana has turned 18 and aged-out of the program. The OT has decided to sponsor another child at the same school in the Philippines. We are planning on selecting a young girl of seven or eight.
~BV HOPE/Restore Innocence Workshop: The Team plans to host a bag packing event on Thursday, June 17, at CUCC. Members and friends are encouraged to purchase supplies for the bags and help to pack on that day. Jean Ferguson is coordinating and will distribute lists of supplies. The lists are also on the "announcement" door at CUCC. Financial gifts are always appreciated.

Helen Duncan, Chair

Finance and Budget Team June News

FAITHFUL GIVING HOW ARE WE DOING?

Monthly Giving for May (1st 4 wks): \$11,891

To meet our Budget, an average of \$12,000 per month is needed.

****Please remember to fulfill your Offering Commitment to CUCC's Ministry!****

Worship Team

We will be celebrating Father's Day on Sunday, June 20. Our team will deliver small pocket knives to the dads.

We have restarted the Sunday birthday cake celebration which will be on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Our first outdoor service on May 16 was so wonderful without masks! We could see everyone's smiles and we had perfect weather. Please remember to bring your own chair, plus a beverage if you like. If the weather is not good, we will move inside the church. We hope to see more people each Sunday!

Linda Rak, Chair

Stewardship/Visioning Team News

The Team is updating the bylaws to reflect its new Team, rather than Committee, status, incorporating the vision that was developed two years ago as this group began its new church role.

Bob Stocker, Chair

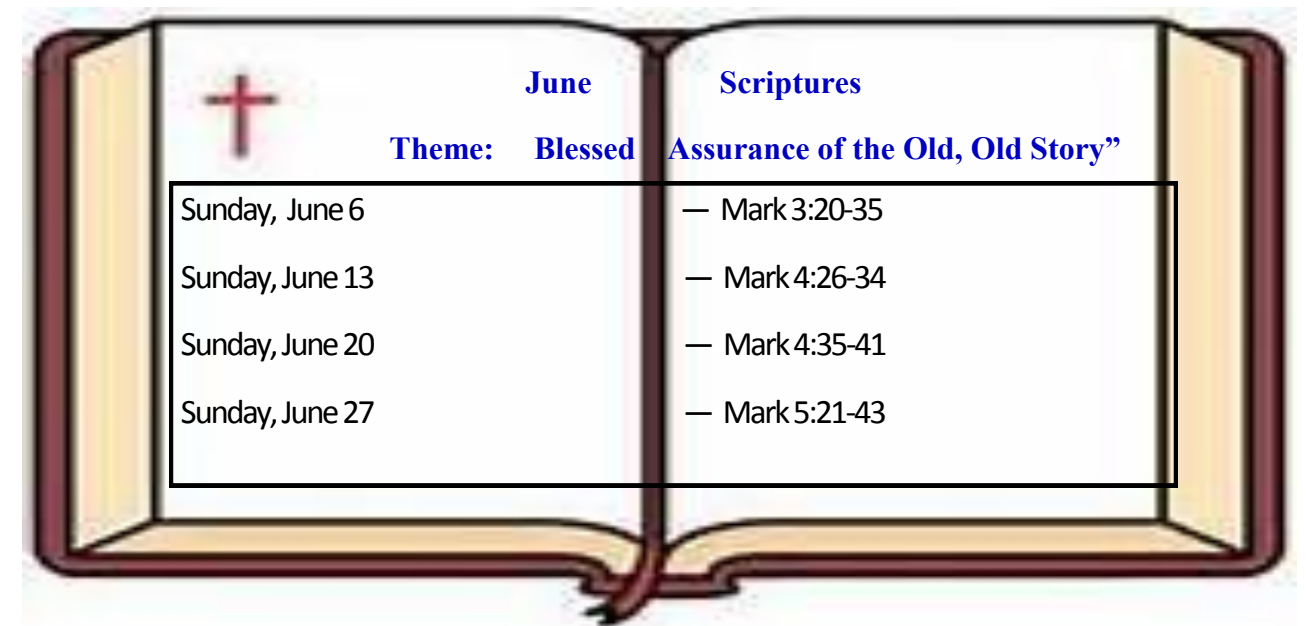
FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

The Jim Close Memorial Garden is up and running again for this year. Thank you, Patty Ouellette!

CUCC has a new recycling dumpster (the one with the **YELLOW** lid), available for church use and to individuals of the church for personal recycling. If you want like to sign up for your household recycling, please see Nancy in the office to get signed up & receive the lock code. Cost is \$8/mo. The list of what is and isn't acceptable is both at the church and on the Chaffee County Waste website (click [here](#)). It was also in the May NL.

Ron Hassell, Co-Chair

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER SUMMER SCHEDULE first one in the AE room at CUCC

CTM meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 6:00pm in person, **with the first gathering June 13.**

June's topic: *Sexuality & Scripture*

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

We hope you'll join us!

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**.

NURTURING JOY CLASS—NEW! Thursdays, 6:00pm-7:30pm, CUCC Starting June 24 Led by Molly Stuart

Can you use more joy in your life? We all can! We encourage ALL people to come and join the fun, whether you have been regularly participating in church or not. This is a great place for new people to join in, too! Building on trust in this safe space, we'll share our life stories and learn from each others' journeys. There will be snacks!

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!

CUCC Council Minutes - May 19, 2021

Sign on and Greeting: 7:06pm Moderator Merilee Daugherty, Vice Moderator Betsy Neas, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Helen Duncan, Marjorie Erickson, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf, Judy Hassell.
Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Merilee Daugherty shared a prayer from Father Richard Rohr.

General Business & Reports

Minutes from the April 21 regular Council meeting were approved as published. The final version of the minutes after editing and resizing for the monthly Newsletter will heretofore be sent to all Council members by the Office, retroactive to the January minutes, so that everyone has an electronic copy for reference.

Clerk’s Report: Ron Rak reported no changes in the congregation since the April 21 Council Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Finance and Budget Co-Chair Bill Waldorf reviewed the Monthly Income Report, mentioning that April income was less than budgeted. In fact, the last few months of income for the operating budget have been low, undoubtedly due to the lack of in-person worship. Thankfully, May appears to be off to a very good start. Bill commented that although income YTD is still below projections, we have enough cash available for prompt bill paying. The 2021 Paycheck Protection Plan government loan to the church is helping greatly with funds to avoid drawing on reserves. At the end of each calendar quarter more detailed financial statements, including an income and expense report and balance sheet, will be generated and presented to Council. In addition, a summary of YTD income will be published in the monthly church newsletter for the congregation’s information.

Moderator’s Report: Merilee reminded us of the upcoming May 22 “Conflict Transformation Workshop” online program administered by the Rocky Mountain Conference this week.

She announced that the new larger scale church recycling program has started with delivery of the recycle bin, which is available to any church member for \$8/month to start.

The Office Communications Administrator (OCA) will be going on vacation from June 15 to July 14, which will require advance preparation work for the July newsletter and Sunday bulletins. Fill-ins for answering the church office phone will be coordinated by a signup calendar in the narthex – anyone is welcome to sit-in for her normal working hours each week.

The next regular Council meeting on June 16 will be an in-person meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Continuing Business

The **Bylaws Committee** is meeting twice monthly, working on bylaw revisions.

The **Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee** met on April 29 and had a full team present, along with the Moderators. They had a thorough and helpful discussion about all aspects of mutual ministry and support of relationships within the congregation and with the pastor. The PCRC encourages all CUCCers to talk with them any time. They do not issue any minutes due to confidentiality concerns.

Open and Affirming (ONA) designation. Based on preliminary information provided to the Council by Pastor Rebecca, Helen Duncan noted that there is a long and a short procedure from the UCC that could be followed to provide the church this certification. We will need some people to take the initiative and go through the steps required. It was suggested that it would be good to get with another UCC church, which recently went through this process, to offer guidance. Two major considerations:

- 1. Maybe timing is not good, with the complications of restarting indoor church with changing COVID guidance; and
- 2. How does this effort fit in with the church’s 2021 goals and focus? Marge Erickson cautioned that the Biblical and theological questions will be difficult, especially in consideration of the “conflict resolution plan” that we are currently working on.

Consensus was that we should postpone the formal process until we complete the bylaws revisions and develop the conflict resolution plan. However, we should continue our education in these areas of consideration, especially race and gender considerations, and openness to other perspectives.

New Business

Consideration of a Community Covenant. It had been suggested that perhaps a covenant of behavior between the congregation, leadership, and the pastor might be useful as part of our ”conflict resolution” plan. A model resolution recently approved by the United Church of Longmont on May 2, 2021, was provided to Council for consideration. After reviewing the model covenant in some detail before the meeting, comments from Council were 1. This is a good guide and a tool for the future; 2. We might want to expand the discussion to the entire congregation, and could use the next Quarterly Congregational Meeting to do this; 3. We should not approach this as an ”edict”; 4. What should covenantal norms be for Rebecca is meeting with the Moderators and OCA Nancy Best to coordinate all aspects of covering office administration and communication during Nancy’s absence. A “Midsummer Newsletter” will be published and sent out mid-June to cover our congregation?; 5. This covenant approach is a recommendation of the RMC Listening Team. *Helen made a MOTION/ Betsy seconded that ”we adapt UCC Longmont’s Community Covenant.” MOTION passed. Council will discuss at the July 21 meeting; Betsy and Molly Stuart will prepare a document.*

Pastor’s Report

Rebecca is meeting with the Moderators and OCA Nancy Best to coordinate all aspects of covering office administration and communication during Nancy’s absence. A “Midsummer Newsletter” will be published and sent out mid-June to cover month. The website, CUCC Facebook page, and all other news will be updated before and during the month, as we are able. Rebecca encouraged all CUCC leaders to provide information about their summer events and activities to Nancy by June 10 for inclusion in the Newsletter and posted around the church and on Facebook. Pastor Rebecca and the Council will cover Nancy’s duties as much as possible, and ask patience and understanding for items that need to wait for her return.

Several summer RMC and UCC General Synod activities available to anyone will be described in the newsletter.

Prayer Concerns/Updates

Rebecca ended the meeting with several immediate prayer concerns and updates, followed by a closing prayer.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Upcoming Events

May 22 RMC virtual workshop for Conflict Transformation Skills, 9:00am to 4:30pm in the FH.

Mallory Everhart ordination, May 23 in Colorado Springs in person and on Zoom.

RMC Annual Celebration: June 7 - 13, all virtual, with a Sunday Zoom service (we will have our own live Sunday service that day).

UCC General Synod: July 11 – 18, Workshops July 7 – 10.

Next regular Council Meeting is June 16, 2021 at 7:00pm in person.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

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. (CUCC’s Mission, Identity & Purpose)

WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Our first gathering in a long time was held May 20, attended by 18 women who brought their lunches and shared in fellowship together. Our next gathering will be a picnic at CUCC on Thursday, June 10. We discussed ideas for the Annual Bazaar, including possible dates, but nothing final was decided. Janet Steiner left us thinking about a small two letter word - if. If we have a Bazaar, when will it be? Will we serve food? Do we have enough helpers who are willing to set up? How many beautiful creative items have been made and stored away over this past year? Yes, there are many questions, but if we are a people of faith and purpose, I think we will find the right answers. Thank you, Janet, for all you have done over the years, but especially in carrying much of planning for the Bazaar. *Just to be clear*—a decision for the date of the Bazaar has NOT been made yet! Stay tuned.

A special fund has been set up in memory of Karen Bowers. The fund has already received over \$1200.00 to be used to replace the industrial refrigerator in the kitchen. This is exciting news for those who cook and prepare food in our kitchen! Thank you, Ronda Funston, for this thoughtful memorial.

The WMS sent a prayer shawl and gift to Mallory Everhart in recognition of her ordination on Sunday, May 23.

Blessings, Marge Erickson, WMS President
406-366-3296