

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Worship Schedule
In Person 10:00am (MDT) at CUCC
9:00am MDT and anytime on YouTube
[CUCCBuenaVistaCO](https://www.bvcucc.org)

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
May 2021



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

I have been pondering some things; perhaps you have also. Through the senseless violence we have to witness every day on our televisions, radios, and phones and internet, we see the shock on the faces of first-hand observers and later, the families and friends. We hear the grief in the voices, the seeking of understanding as to 'why.'

In today's society, we have become judgmental when it comes to the views we hold but which are not shared by others. No matter which of a multitude of candidates was elected as President of the United States (there were 24 candidates on the 2020 ballot), anyone whose candidate did not win was going to be upset and have difficulty understanding how others could have supported a candidate other than the one they wanted. The simplest way to deal with the disappointment is to be angry and shut out the person you know did not vote your way.

Why this uproar regarding blacks, LGBTQ, Asian, you name it? Could it be we have made up our minds before we have heard the stories associated with each group? The better approach is to calmly discuss the differences, to understand where the other person stands, and to express why you feel the way you do, openly and without judgment. Just because someone has a different point of view does not make them a terrible person.

Freedom of speech. Why can't you express your opinion without being labeled politically incorrect? Why not ask the person saying something you feel to be inappropriate for an explanation, to understand where they are coming from? What are we afraid of? Why is it so difficult to support others, cheer their success, instead of feeling threatened by that success?

At the end of March, an article by Richard Rohr discussed the word "scapegoating." It comes from a ritual described in Leviticus 16 where once a year priests designated an 'escaping' goat and laid hands on it, thereby putting all the sins of the people from the previous year onto the animal. After beating the goat, it was set free into the desert and everyone went home joyful, absolved of their sins. Jesus served as our scapegoat, taking away our sins, showing how wrong it is to artificially place blame on others because of some supposed wrong or evil. Russian philosopher and dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote, "If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being."

Am I fulling living the above? NO, not yet, but I truly want to. Let us put aside the artificial barriers that separate us from the 'other.' Let us release ourselves from our ego and learn not what separates us, but what we have in common.

Micah 6:8: "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Merilee Daugherty, Moderator

TWO WAYS TO WORSHIP!

YOUTUBE WORSHIP

Live Sundays at 9:00am (MDT)

Our YouTube worship is always happening! [CUCCBuenaVistaCO](https://www.bvcucc.org)

IN-PERSON WORSHIP at CUCC

May 2 & 9 Indoors; May 16 and following Outdoors
10:00am

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR—will NOT continue AFTER May 9 until further notice
Sundays, 11:00am (right after in-person worship through May 9)

Join us on [Zoom](https://www.bvcucc.org) for social time! (click on [Zoom](https://www.bvcucc.org) or see any weekly email blast for [link](https://www.bvcucc.org))

PASTOR’S ARTICLE, May 2021

*Extravagant Welcome

*Mission

*Education

“*Growing Back Better at the Speed of Enough*”

Happy May! Welcome back! We’ve missed you all so much! There’s just something different about being back together in person, offering smiling eyes and occasional hugs. This past year has been a completely unusual year in the life of the church, but we have been vital, alive, planting seeds, learning all kinds of new things—about tech possibilities and the world in general! Your Leadership Teams have all been heard at work, working on a new Mission/Identity/Purpose statement; 3 Focus Areas, Healthy Ministry Relationships, Safety in COVID, and more! Thank you, CUCC Leadership & Staff! You are amazing!

I’ve been pondering a couple notions for our return: “Grow Back Better” and “Moving at the Speed of Enough.” Pandemics of many kinds and all the places life has taken us as a community in recent years, call us not to resume life as usual, but to consider the growth we have experienced, inside as individuals, and as a congregation and culture, so we “Grow Back Better.”

As we do, let’s consider “Moving at the Speed of Enough.” To be patient and gentle with ourselves, one another, and our community, and ask ourselves “how much is enough?” in all our Mutual Ministry—projects, programs and tasks?

It’s so easy to always be anxious that we are not doing enough as a congregation. Are we doing enough about racism? To understand our LGBTQ brothers and sisters and extend true extravagant welcome? Enough to understand the Bible better, in order to address the concerns of our day? Enough to care for others—both inside and outside our congregation? Enough learning about navigating the “care system” in our area, or about mental conditions to companion others on the journey? Are we doing enough about climate change and undertaking “Green Steps?” Are we giving enough time, talent and treasure to keep our church vital, viable and thriving?

Be still, and know that I am God.....

The words come, as if on cue. COVID “return” calls us to pause, reflect, consider: What have we always done that we need to keep doing? (The Bazaar comes to mind!) What can be retired as a program or project that is no longer meeting a need or has fulfilled its purpose in good measure?

As your pastor, looking at all these things involves looking at how I spend my time and focus each day and week in ministry. Pastor Schedule is like no other! Every time you try to nail it down, it moves! Even *where* the work gets done is ever changing. Surprise! The least effective and thoughtful ministry happens in the Office. Where *does* it happen? Highways and byways, the airwaves and spirit-waves. Ministry happens every time we connect and build a relationship with another person—in-person or across the wire.

Pastoral Ministry also needs substantial quiet time for study, writing and reflection. This is absolutely essential to writing meaningful sermons, newsletters, reports, emails, and to providing sensitive pastoral care and presence. So, as I seek to “grow back better,” I am planning portions of my week for “Concentration Time.” Those who “wait on me” for worship planning and recording, reports and information are grateful, as I’m getting things done in a more timely fashion!

Pastor, Moderators & PCRC are experimenting with a “Block System” for Pastoral Ministry.

*Each day contains 3 Blocks: **Morning, Afternoon, Evening.**

*Ministry Work Days are Sunday—Thursday.

*Pastoral Ministry happens in 10-12 blocks each week = 40-50 hours, or a full-time week.

*Each Work Day should contain 2 blocks of the 3 available.

*Fridays/Saturdays – Family Days/Sabbath

(See “**Schedule as Spiritual Practice**” [here](#) for a visual and consider for yourself as well!)

This is surprisingly challenging! Far too many days end up being three blocks– starting early in the morning till late at night, or “Days off/Family days” turn into work days. Fluidity and flexibility, and adapting as we go, every day and every week, are essential. Ministry happens at all times of the day and night, in all kinds of ways. Before this tech age, pastors were only thought to be working if in the office or outwardly visible. Nowadays, we are “wired” all the time. Understanding that we will all turn off the phone and email and unhook at times, and encouraging one another toward “enough,” will be good for all.

Finally, let’s pray for one another and our church—without ceasing, wherever we find ourselves. I can tell you I do my best praying for you all and prepping worship and sermons while mucking my corral or out walking the dogs or riding my horse! The creativity and ideas flow much better away from the screen. Let’s “grow back at the speed of enough” together!

Blessings, Rebecca

CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

CHARLOTTE SMITH NEW RESIDENCE

Morrison Manor
Room 403, 9875 Morrison Rd.
Lakewood, CO 80227
303-990-9405 or 303-990-3708

She would love to hear from you (and maybe even receive current affairs reading material)!

NAN BOHE ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Nan has been moved to a room down the hall, so please update her room number and phone’s last four digits.

Life Care Center of Westminster, Durango Hall, Rm. 123
7751 Zenobia Court, Westminster, CO 80030
(720) 542-1776

LUCILLE HABECK NEWS from daughter Diana Hilt

Lucille misses CUCC very much and says hi to everyone there! She is well now after her short hospital stay due to passing out on Good Friday. She enjoys her new apartment.

COMPOSTING AT CUCC

Sign up at <http://www.elementscompost.com/residential-composting.html> for your own personal composting.

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

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

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 at 719-395-2544 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. 123
7751 Zenobia Court, Westminster, CO 80030

Roger Cason (303) 756-1546 (nursing station)
Brookshire House, Rm. 12B
4660 E Asbury Circle, Denver, CO 80222

Lindsey Fagerberg Close
1920 Frontage Rd., Apt. 1714, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

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

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

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

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

Millie & Tom Meardon (719) 221-2067 -M
813 Evergreen Place, La Junta, CO 81050

Charlotte Smith (303) 990-9405; (303) 990-9708
Morrison Manor
Rm. 403
9875 Morrison Rd., Lakewood, CO 80227

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

Gerry and Jean Venard (719) 966-9524
3377 Mill Vista Road, Unit #3205
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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

Glen & Joan Wilder (719) 395-8722
29531 CR 372A, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Wilma and Angie Williams (719) 395-2702
PO Box 1808
208 S Colorado, Buena Vista, CO 81211



CUCC Special Dates

BIRTHDAYS

May 2—Bart Cain
May 5—Pat Benton
May 6—Ron Erickson
May 9—Kaylynnne Pomfret
May 13—Ashley Werner
May 19—Molly Stuart
May 20—Alicia Allinger
May 21—Gloria Close
May 21—Phyllis McCall
May 23—Bob Stevens
May 24—Adele Jackson
May 26—Donna Maloney
May 27—Glen Wilder
May 28—Tammy White
May 29—Marcia Holub

ANNIVERSARIES

May 2—Al & Phyl McCall
May 23—Ron & Judy Hassell



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

Joan Wilder—Healing
Roger Cason—Healing
Nan Bohe—Healing
Sarah Struthers—Healing
Pam Hughes—Healing
Al & Phyllis McCall—Healing
Brooke Davis (Doyle & Leonard Nyberg's
cousin)—Healing
Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing
Nancy Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's sister-in-law)—Healing
Pat & Jim Driskel (aunt & uncle of Doyle and Leonard
Nyberg)—Healing
Betty Gwynn—Healing
Friend of Barb Wilder—Healing
Julia Munson (sister-in-law of Adele Jackson)—Healing
Charlotte Smith—Healing
Linda Rak—Healing
Consuelo Arriola (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Bill Waldorf—Healing
Janet Jones—Healing
Ron Erickson—Healing
Jay Wonders (Herb Daugherty's brother)—Healing
Maritza Kaniewski (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Lisa Hust (friend of Bob Stocker & Ellen Kely)—Healing
Rod Struthers—Healing
The Family of Ronnie Clodfelter (brother of VirJeanne
Williams)—Comfort
Don Taylor—Healing
Bowie Duncan—Healing
Paul Dorfmeister—Healing



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

As Memorial Day approaches, the longing to meet together in fellowship and in the mission work that is our purpose seems to be more of a reality. Several woman have contacted me suggesting that we have lunch together and a planning/ sharing time. One suggestion was to plan a picnic where we could meet outdoors; another was to bring our lunch and meet together in the Fellowship Hall where we could socially distance, but yet be together. After considering the cool weather and the comfort of the Fellowship Hall, we have decided to have a **Spring Basket Luncheon on May 20 at 12:00 noon until 2:00pm.** Please bring your own lunch and beverage; dessert will be provided. For our devotions, please bring a Scripture to share that has sustained you during this past year of separation.

Our gratitude and thanks to all who contributed items for the LaPuente Hygiene Bags and to VirJeanne and Rhonda for giving their time to organizing this year's contributions.

Thanks be to God for bringing us to this new time of deep appreciation for life itself and the beautiful spring world being transformed around us. WELCOME SPRING!

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

CUCC DOES EASTER NEW LIFE!

Bob Stocker & Ellen Kely shared Easter with Rebecca & Clarke Poos on their goat farm. One of the little goats had even been born on Rebecca's birthday, Feb. 20!



Becca goat born
on Rebecca's
birthday.



Celebrating our church family on Easter!



Easter babies
Hal and Lou
with Mama Fine



view from the Mountain

“Learning Farm Life”

I wrote this column in 1991, so we had lived on our Kentucky farm for five months. During those months I had accumulated an astonishing number of mistakes. My husband had to go back to Florida and I was left to do it all. You see, I had never lived on a farm nor in a hundred-and-fifty-year-old house. So it was with earnest hesitation that I confessed to all of these mistakes.

First, I almost burnt my bedroom down. And just knowing there were snakes in the basement kept me far, far away from down there. The problem was that that was where my washer and dryer were. And then there was my total ineptness with anything electrical or mechanical, and when I bought one herd of cattle two herds were delivered and I kept them all! When I saw the vines climbing on the tree and around the tree bases, I attacked them earnestly; however, then I realized the vines were poison ivy. It is almost endearing to hear about all of the blunders of another human being, isn't it? But it also feels a little like I have stepped over the line from endearing to just plain stupid. Frankly, I am counting on all of my friends here to love me anyway.

I have an excuse. It is my family upbringing. I had never lived in the country or in a very old house with a ghost. First of all, there were hornets or wasps or whatever grow large hairy legs and fly in their little houses all over the veranda ceiling. You know those little suckers have bad attitudes. I don't know how they got inside my house, but they did. I tried to kill them, but they wouldn't die. They would get right back up and counterattack. I had to go for the source of the trouble. Their little outside houses was where they lived. So I dragged a hose around to the front yard and with deadly aim I squirted full blast. Let me tell you if I thought their attitude was poor inside, it definitely worsened outside.

Ok, are you ready for this? In the city a little card arrived by mail every month billing us for the amount of electricity we used. I never even thought how they knew how much I used. In fact, in a big high rise condo all the modern conveniences were simply there and one simply paid for them. Well, when we moved to the farm the electricity company sent us a bill with little boxes that were drawn on it and an amount which we had to pay, which I did, until one bill came that was five times as much as it had ever been and you can bet I was right there ready. I called that electricity company to inform them that there was indeed a mistake.

Do you know what that telephone girl told me? She said I had never read the meter. They had sent out someone to the farm to read our meter and found they had undercharged from the very beginning. So they tacked it all on one big bill.

“You wait just a darn minute?” I roared. “What do you mean ‘never read the meter?’ What’s a meter? What meter?” The lady quietly explained that those little boxes on the card should be used to write the numbers on the outside of the meter every month.

“Why I’ve never heard of such!” I assured her that in the future that I would paint the little numbers in the little boxes and also I’d appreciate if they didn’t guess the amount I owed. The nerve. I’m not the smartest gal, you know, but I’m not too old to learn. As I said, life on a Kentucky farm is very different from anywhere I had ever lived and every day was a new lesson for me.

Before long, this same lady at the electricity company came out to see us with arms filled with flowers. You know what? In spite of all of the above mistakes, I have never ever loved living anywhere as much as I loved my little farm on the hill in Winchester, Kentucky. It was truly my forever home.

The view from the mountain is wondrous!

Jean Brody



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)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVERS from NAMI

Virtual support groups for those caring for someone with dementia are available for free and are facilitated by trained and screened volunteers. Please click [here](#) for the schedule and more information.

DEMENTIA EDUCATION PROGRAMS from NAMI

Virtual classes for family and friends of someone suffering from dementia are available for free and are led by trained and screened staff and volunteers. Please click [here](#) for the schedule and more information.

COVID FUNERAL EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT

FEMA is reimbursing up to \$7,000.00 for COVID-19 funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. FEMA will begin accepting applications in April.

If you know anyone who paid for a funeral due to COVID-19, please pass this information to them and advise them to keep their funeral documentation.

For more information and COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, please click [here](#).

ARK VALLEY RECOVERY

Supporting Recovery from Addiction Through Peer Coaching
“Walking side by side with you from crisis through achievements.”

Trained Recovery Coaches empower clients to make decisions that will lead to healthy, productive, successful lives in recovery. To contact a Recovery Coach, call 719-999- PEER (7337) or email arkvalley@percsinc.org.

For general questions, call Lisa at 719-321-9940 or Mike at 719-221-5418 or email arkvalley@persinc.org.

Ark Valley Recovery is a member of Peer Empowered Recovery Community Solutions operating in Chaffee Custer, Fremont, and Lake Counties.

CHAFFEE COUNTY WASTE SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING

No need to separate your recycling! CCW has a curb-side pick-up for all your recycling in one bag. Call them at 719-395-6656 for more information.

Items accepted:

- Newspaper (including Inserts) • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Mixed paper • Steel or Tin cans
- Aluminum cans • Aluminum foil • Plastic milk jugs • Paper towel and Toilet paper tubes • Chipboard (Cereal & Tissue boxes) • Plastic (#1-#7) • Empty aerosol cans • Milk cartons • Soup and broth cartons • Beverage cartons
- Office Paper • Food boxes • Brown paper bags • Glass bottles and jars
- Liquid detergent bottles • Bulk or Junk mail • Vitamin bottles • Soda carrier boxes • Paper egg cartons
- Pie tins • Magazines and Catalogs • Butter tubs • Juice boxes • Food cartons

Items NOT accepted:

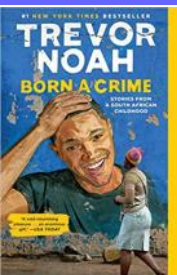
- Plastic grocery bags • Plastic wrap • Plastic caps (soda, water, pill, or juice bottles) • Six-pack rings
- Plastic plates or utensils • Shredded paper • Overnight mailer envelopes • Plastic egg carton
- Styrofoam • Tyvek (polyethylene fiber)

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

BOY SCOUTS AT CUCC & CALL FOR FLAG VOLUNTEERS

Boy Scout Troop 67 continues to meet at the church. We currently have four 6th-graders and four 9th-graders. A total of four boys will be attending summer camp near Rye, Colorado in June. For the last several years, we have been posting the US flags along Main Street on Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, and Veterans' Day. Unfortunately, with many of our boys from split families and living outside Buena Vista, I have been short-handed when it comes time to carry out the posting and retiring of the colors. If you would like to help, meet us at the American Legion at 7:00am May 31 to get started and at the Historical Museum at 5:30pm to return the flags to the Legion. There are 73 flags.

Questions? Merilee 719-966-2004



TELLS
Tuesday Evening
Ladies
Literary Society
Tuesdays, 7:00pm MDT
via Zoom

All women are welcome!

The group is reading
"Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah.

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 THROUGH MAY 9

*(after May 9 there will be no Zoom
Coffee Hour until further notice)*

**Sundays, 11:00am MDT
(right after in-person worship
THROUGH MAY 9)**

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBdVTMydz09)
[pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBdVT](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBdVTMydz09)
[Mydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92782808568?pwd=bG1POHIURHBIT2FDNENsVXBdVTMydz09)

Meeting ID: **927 8280 8568**

Passcode: **019834**

Phone-in to join: **1-253-215-8782**

******THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM COFFEE
HOUR AFTER MAY 9
until further notice******

APPRECIATIONS

KUDOS COLUMN



CREATIVE KUDOS to Janet Steiner! Beautiful, colorful eggs, a Holy Week message and a greeting from CUCC—all delivered with lists and maps and smiles! Great direction of this spirit-lifting Easter Program!

And thank you to her delivery helpers, too!

Also many thanks to all CUCCers and Grace Church people who created stations for the Stations of the Cross with Grace Church.

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.**



YOU'RE INVITED!

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.

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.

INSPIRATION CORNER

A Word for the Day...

"Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

- Matthew 13:16

In an interview, the author of Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Goleman, was asked to talk about the power of relationships.

He said, "Let me tell you about Govan Brown. Govan Brown was a bus driver in New York City. He drove a bus up Madison Avenue. I once got on his bus. It was a very hot August day, very humid. And I was feeling a little irritable, like many people in New York City on a day like that. And when I got on his bus, Govan looked at me and asked, as though he really cared, 'How has your day been going?'"

"And I was shocked because people in New York City usually don't have a direct human encounter like that with someone they've never seen before. And as I sat on the bus, I realized he's carrying on a conversation with everyone on that bus. And people would get off the bus, and he would say again, very warmly, 'I hope your day turns out to be a wonderful day for you.'"

"At the time, I didn't know his name was Govan Brown. I found that out in his obituary in the New York Times years later because they said he was the only driver of a bus in New York City who, when he retired, had a party held in his honor because he had so many fans. People couldn't wait to get on Govan Brown's bus."

"Govan was a pastor of a Black Church on Long Island, and he saw everyone on his bus as part of his flock. He was tending to his flock, that was my feeling."

"It doesn't matter what you do, it's how you do it. That determines whether you really connect, whether you really help people."

Sometimes it's hard to see goodness - Godness - in the world. But then, when you know what you're looking for, you start to see it everywhere...even in yourself.

Once you make that connection, your "flock" becomes everyone you meet and your compassion becomes the irresistible welcome for which we all long. May it be so for you today.

We are in this together, Rev. Cameron Trimble (used by permission)

non-physical compliments can sound like...

Sara Kuburic, CCC; @millennial.therapist

"I constantly learn from you"

"The way you treat people is beautiful"

"You are strong"

"You are such a good listener. I always feel heard"

"I appreciate how authentically you show up"

"Your confidence is something I aspire to"

"You make me feel like I belong"

"Your resilience is inspiring"

"I love that you don't hesitate to apologize when you're wrong"

"I really admire your passion for self-exploration"

"I love how transparent you are"

"You bring out the best in me"

"You're dependable. I always feel safe around you"

"Your passion is contagious"

CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY "Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches"

Saturday, May 22

9:00am-4:30pm (with breaks and lunch from noon-1)

Please arrive by 8:45am

At CUCC

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

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

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

ORDINATION OF MALLORY EVERHART

May 23, 3:00pm

Via Zoom and In-Person

First Congregational Church

20 E St. Vrain St., Colorado Springs

Please RSVP by clicking [here](#) (for both virtual and in-person attendance).

TOM RAWLINS CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sunday, July 18

2:00pm, at CUCC

~ more information to follow ~

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION MEETING

Sunday, May 16

2:00pm

via Zoom

Over the last 4 years, leaders from all of the associations in the Rocky Mountain Conference have been coming together to explore, reflect, and discern how best to carry out the work of ministerial authorization, oversight, and accountability within the rapidly changing context of church and religious life. This time of discernment has led us to the conclusion that Committee on Ministry (COM) work within the Rocky Mountain Conference can be better done by uniting in a single Conference Wide Committee on Ministry (CWCOM). This 2021 meeting will to present this bold new experiment.

The Zoom link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

PASTOR REBECCA WANTS TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

~Pastoral care & counseling, spiritual companionship, 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 REPORTS

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

Conversations That Matter had a lovely discussion with Jennifer Butler, author of "Who Stole My Bible" on April 11 via Zoom. A recording is available of the discussion on request. CTM will take a break through May and then begin a summer program. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 6:00pm in person, with the first gathering June 13. Rebecca will lead a discussion on "Sexuality and Scripture." Location to be determined—stay tuned!

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

Is anyone interested in joining the FE team? Let us know!

Donna Maloney, Chair

Finance and Budget Team May News

FAITHFUL GIVING HOW ARE WE DOING?

Monthly Giving for April: \$6,152.22

Total 2021 giving Jan - March: \$29,281

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

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

Outreach/Community & World Team News —May greetings!

The Team didn't meet in person in April, but plans to do so in May.

-- The United Church of Christ, our denomination, is holding the special offering, STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH, in May. Envelopes are available in the church office. This offering, which CUCC has always supported very generously, "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. This offering also provides support for existing church's new initiatives." The Backpack Program at CUCC was begun here through this program.

-- The Bob Dwyer Childrens' Fund/Angelo Abellana in the Philippines continues to need our support. Donations of small bills and change should be placed in glass jar in the narthex.

-- In May or June we plan to host a special backpack event for BV HOPE, which works tirelessly to halt human trafficking.

-- Many local and county-wide programs need our support: the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission, the homeless shelter in Salida, NewBees, Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity, and of course the Backpack Program. Please be generous. Thank you.

Helen Duncan, Chair

Worship Team

We are open and running. It feels good to be together again and see people. We will be celebrating Mother's Day on May 9th with carnations. If you aren't able to get your carnation at the church service, we will deliver it to you.

We continue to hold each and everyone of you in our hearts and our prayers as we continue together as a church. It's been a long year but we are almost at the end. Hang in there!

Please let us know if there is anything you need help with. We are here for you.

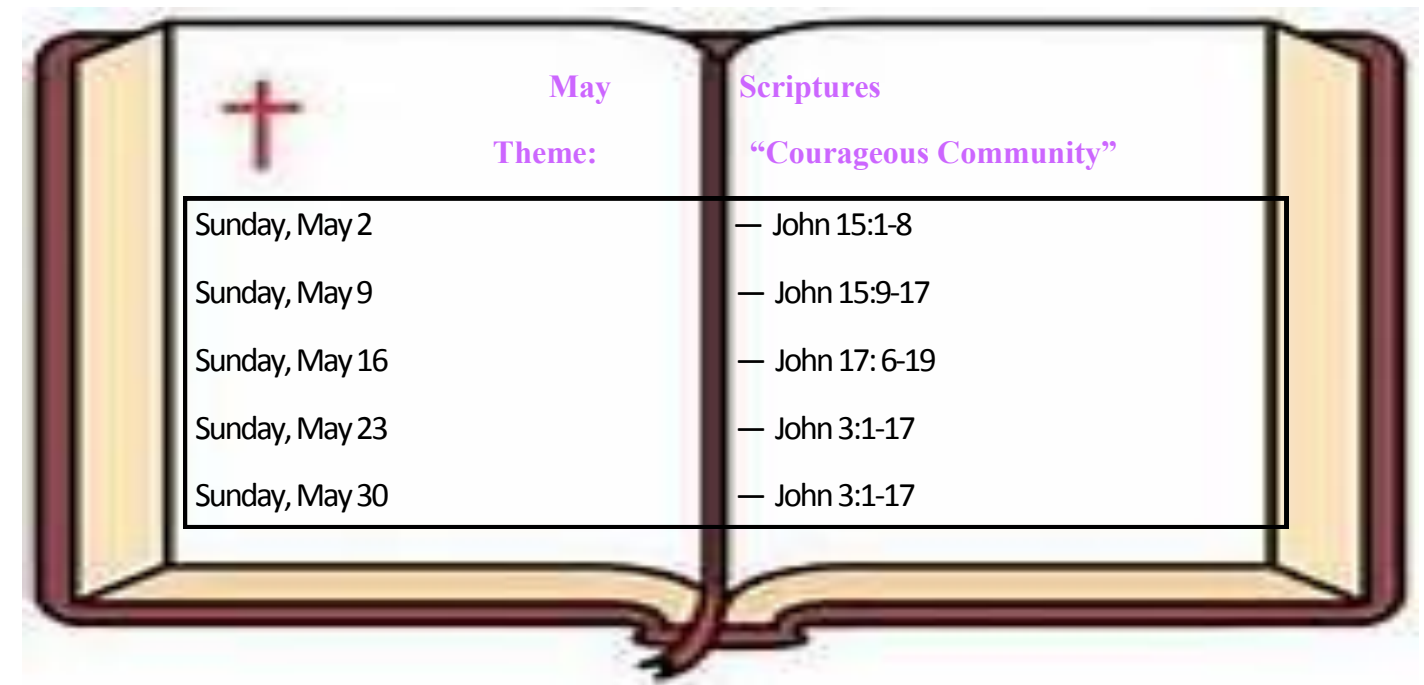
Linda Rak, Chair

Stewardship/Visioning Team News

The Team has been working on setting goals and writing Policies and Procedures for the Team in the Bylaws.

Bob Stocker, Chair

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER SUMMER SCHEDULE

After taking a break in May, CTM will meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 6:00pm in person in different homes, with the first gathering June 13.

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

We hope you'll join us!

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

Tithe.ly makes it easy to put the CUCC online giving app right on your phone!

Go to the App store on your phone and download the free app. Setting it up is easy! You'll be glad you did!

PASTORAL/CONGREGATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

Helen Duncan Arlene Waldorf Mike Evans

Kathy Roman Ron Erickson

WE WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

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

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

DID YOU KNOW? 6 Ways to Give!

Exciting Options for Supporting CUCC!

1. MAIL IN your contribution to CUCC, PO Box 610, Buena Vista, CO 81211-0610
2. DROP OFF at the church building during Nancy's working hours: MWF from 9:00-2:00.
3. Donate ONLINE with our new tithe.ly program! It's safe, secure, quick, and easy. You can even set up recurring payments so that you don't have to think about it each month! How nice is that?
4. DONATE through the CUCC website: bvcucc.org, click DONATE.
5. WORSHIP with us on our YouTube channel, then click 'Please Support Our Church' for giving options.
6. ACH - set up Automatic Giving at your bank. Never miss a month of ministry!

THANK YOU for all the ways you give of yourselves, your gifts, and your lives to CUCC!

CUCC Council Minutes - April 21, 2021

7:12pm 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 26, 2020, due to the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic.)

Sign on and Greeting: Moderator Merilee Daugherty, Vice Moderator Betsy Neas, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Helen Duncan, Marjorie Erickson, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bill Waldorf

Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Merilee Daugherty shared a prayer from a recent RMC Moderators' meeting.

General Business & Reports

Minutes from the March 17 regular Council meeting were approved as published.

Clerk's Report: Ron Rak reviewed the recent deaths of Gail Moffat (Mar 2) and Bonnie Guenther (Mar 4), and the removal (clerical error) of John Harrington from the membership rolls.

Finance Team and Treasurer's Report: Finance and Budget Co-Chair Bill Waldorf reported that he and Treasurer Lloyd Martinez have been working on streamlining the monthly reports to reduce Lloyd's workload under monthly time pressures and to simplify reports for Council use and understanding. He recommended that just one report be sent to Council each month, namely a "Monthly Income Report." At the end of each calendar quarter, two additional detailed reports will be provided: "Income & Expense" which will show a comparison of actual against budget and against last year, and the "Balance Sheet." Additionally, the quarterly report has been simplified by eliminating Restricted Funds income and expense, showing only activity in the Unrestricted Fund. Three reports for the first quarter of 2020 were provided to Council members with the request that they review the reports and let the Finance Team know their reactions to the new reporting format.

Finances for three months as of March 31 show that church income is about \$7,500 behind budget, but expenses are \$9,700 less than budgeted, since teams are spending less due to COVID restrictions. A summary of YTD church income will be re-instituted as a report in the monthly church newsletter for the congregation's information.

The Treasurer plans to use the approximate \$20,000 PPP loan to pay employee salaries until the loan proceeds are exhausted. The loan is presently shown as a liability on the balance sheet, but is expected to be forgiven by year-end, at which point the loan proceeds will be booked as extraordinary income once forgiven.

Moderator's Report: Merilee noted that she has been working with the Office Communications Administrator Nancy Best going through church files looking for historical information about the church in preparation for a future anniversary celebration. At the same time, she has pulled all available information on bylaws in preparation for re-writing them this summer, as mandated by the church team re-organization approved two years ago. This will also include updating the Policy and Procedures for each team, the Council, and the church operation in general. The Bylaws Committee will continue working on this update until it is completed as a rough draft for Council approval. Each team will then need to review/correct their bylaws by June 16 and P&P's as soon as they comfortably can.

Continuing Business

Strategic Planning Team: The team will resume meeting to discuss any changes needed as the church expands its re-opening for larger in-person services, team meetings, and community uses of the church.

Education Component: Betsy Neas emphasized that we will continue promoting an "Extravagant Welcome" as the in-house focus for this year, especially considering in-person indoor and outdoor lawn services. The second planned focus of the "church mission" will require some "forward thinking," since we may be somewhat limited with in-person mission outreach in the community and outside mission trips because of the COVID virus situation. Mission trips may just have to be delayed until conditions improve. Mission giving can be more easily purposed. To build interest in mission trips, with a little encouragement and direction by the Faith Ed. team, individuals could share past mission experiences in the church newsletter. Education can also be done in new mission-specific groups and the Conversations That Matter weekly gathering to learn more details of the communities we wish to serve before we get there. Rebecca noted that we are already learning a lot about controversial issues in our country and world in our weekly CTM and TELLs groups. Local issues of recycling changes and dealing with the COVID virus are being discussed every week in the congregation through emails, the weekly email blasts, and team meetings on Zoom. The audio-visual mechanics of presenting online church services and coffee hour is evolving weekly, and we are now making similar changes inside the church building for in-person services and resumption of community gatherings.

Team Reports

Women's Missionary Society: Marjorie Erickson said the group is planning a May 20 or early June outdoor in-person picnic at a local park or perhaps the Casa del Rio Clubhouse. She still wants to be overly-cautious in consideration of the virus situation for the gatherings, especially if conducted indoors. Adequate distancing is the main issue, and possibly requiring vaccinations of everyone attending is being considered.

New Business

Outdoor Worship will begin Sunday, May 16th with theme "Getting to Know You Again."

Quarterly Congregational Meeting May 16. Discussion focused on what sort of meeting and how to conduct it outdoors.

Council will sponsor it. Tables could be set up and Coffee Hour type foods and beverages could be offered. City regulations for food serving at a gathering will need to be researched.

Pastor's Report

- Rebecca asked that Facilities spruce up the grounds before the Sunday, May 16 Outdoor Worship & Congregational meeting.
- Expanding the Recycling capacity at the church is currently being studied to include the congregation. Our trash provider, Chaffee County Waste, is continuing their recycling. This will fill some of the gap in community recycling created by the recent stoppage of the Angel of Shavano county recycling service. This will also promote our current "caring for the earth" theme that started with the celebration of Earth Day. The Facilities Team and Council will explore the costs, pros and cons, and type of dumpster(s), and a decision will be made before the next Council meeting.
- A light reorganizing of furniture and addition of another desk in the office will need to be done soon to allow for Clarke Poos' old desk to be moved in and Rebecca's desk to go to Nancy. We will need a new home for the desk Nancy has used.
- Rebecca reported that we have been asked over the years, and again recently, "Why is CUCC not Open & Affirming" (ONA)?

Rebecca has researched the program and shared information with the Council to explore and consider the steps involved. She noted that in many ways "we are already there," with Our Extravagant Welcome as one of our 3 Focus Areas, messages of inclusion, signs, and involvement of LGBTQ folks in the church and its leadership. On the education side, Conversations That Matter and TELLs past and future studies on LGBTQ topics, inequality, and injustice over the years, and our ongoing commitment to true, authentic welcome of all, meet many of the requirements for the ONA designation. Four steps need to be taken to initiate the process: 1. Council will need to decide on beginning this exploratory journey; 2. Need to plan educational experiences and conversations with the entire congregation; 3. Draft an Open & Affirming Covenant; 4. A congregational vote to approve and accept the Covenant and the ONA designation in the UCC. She asked for Council support and approval to start informing us on the process. Council requested more information to educate us on the pros and cons of exploring this process, and a decision will be made at the next Council meeting.

Prayer Concerns/Updates

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

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.

Upcoming Events

- **May 22, RMC workshop for Conflict Transformation Skills**, 9:00am to 4:30pm, at CUCC on TV's
- **May 23, Ordination of Mallory Everhart**, 3:00pm, Colorado Springs, in-person and on Zoom
- **June 7 - 13, RMC Annual Celebration**, all virtual, with a Sunday service available to all of us on June 13
- **July 11 - 18, UCC General Synod**, workshops July 7 – 10.

Next regular Council Meeting is May 19, 2021 at 7:00pm.

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)

CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRISTIAN MISSION IN NEED OF FOOD —and yes, even peanut butter!

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

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

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



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Your continued support is always appreciated!

Always welcome:

Tuna — Chef Boyardee
Juice Boxes — Fruit Cups

Pudding Cups — Granola or Cereal Bars