

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

***Sunday Worship Schedule
Indoor In-Person 10:00am (Mt. Time)***

***Past Services anytime on YouTube at
[CUCCBuenaVistaCO](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNKA2oUfDbUT2zWA62aqDhg)***

Physical: 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
Subscribe on YouTube! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNKA2oUfDbUT2zWA62aqDhg>

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)

No matter who you are, no matter where you
are on 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
November 2021



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

While church membership is about 95, the size of our congregation participating in the Sunday services has diminished. Some of our members and other participants no longer live in the area or are seasonal, others may not attend due to continuing concerns regarding COVID-19 or other health issues, and others have their own personal reasons. People from the community attend our Conversations That Matter on Sundays, TELLS on Tuesday evenings, *Love is the Way* book discussion on Thursday mornings, and the day-long retreats we have offered. So, we continue to reach out.

Council and the Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee this week discussed buddying up active members with those more homebound to be sure that no one is being overlooked. We are looking at home visits, phone calls, perhaps notes. Some may be hearing from multiple people and others receiving no calls and we want to be sure everyone knows they are valued. Pastoral care is something we can and should all provide, whether it is grocery shopping, rides to appointments, meal preparation and delivery, or visits and calls.

The Bylaws Committee is finishing up their work on the revisions and will be providing congregational meetings at the church to show and explain the proposed changes. The email blasts will let you know when we will begin. One of the changes is to allow Team members to serve more than two terms. Those currently serving feel their service is a calling and are willing (dare I say eager?) to serve another term, but be sure that we encourage and welcome anyone with an interest in serving on a Team, as Moderator, Vice Moderator, or Clerk, to let any Council member know.

We want to share the work of the church with people that do not feel an interest or have the time to commit to actually being on a Team. The Worship Team always needs people to greet, usher, and lector, and to that end have a clipboard where you can sign up for a Sunday. Facilities works hard to keep our church and grounds in good shape. Can you mow, weed, change light bulbs, shovel snow? This is an opportunity for private meditation time while you serve a mission for the church. Do you have ideas for adult education topics or would you like to lead a class for a day? I know the Faith Education Team will make you feel very welcome. Bill Waldorf would welcome people with financial backgrounds to work with him on the Finance Team. Outreach Team does more than simply send money to local and global missions. They are promoting the Socksgiving campaign in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Conference of UCC. Perhaps you know of other outreach/mission projects we should be looking at or that would feed your soul through participation. What is your vision for the future of our church? Do you have ideas that could serve as a catalyst for growth? The Visioning Team would love to hear your ideas and have you share your enthusiasm with them.

We are going to pray for the minimum number of Team members, three, with the goal of having you share the work. Even when you were growing up I bet your parents did not shoulder the entire load of maintaining the home; you had your chores and responsibilities and that was part of being a member of the family. Please, family, come and serve with us.

Merilee Daugherty, Moderator



WORSHIP AT CUCC!
Every Sunday at 10:00am
INDOORS
Masks encouraged.
See you there!



PASTOR'S ARTICLE, November 2021

Tuesday, October 5, saw our beloved community gathered on a beautiful fall day, full of sunshine and color, in Nathrop, Colorado, for a time of retreat and reflection. We were graciously welcomed and hosted by Marge and Ron Erickson to their home—a little slice of Heaven with two labyrinths in view of the majestic Chalk Cliffs.

Friends new and long-known came together for a co-ed gathering with the theme:

“The Elephant In the Room: A Day Retreat on Reconciliation & Restoration of Relationship.”

Led by Molly Stuart and Pastor Rebecca, we enjoyed a wonderful conversation with over 20 folks from CUCC and surrounds. We explored together, shared stories, spent quiet time reflecting, gathered around the Lunch Table in the sunshine and enjoyed Labyrinth Time.

With Elephant Herd dynamics as a guide, we pondered these ideas:

1. WHAT BREAKS/INTERRUPTS RELATIONSHIPS?

Things like fear—of our mortality. Fears about the pandemic/lockdown/illness. The need to be right and think the other person wrong breaks relationships. Being oblivious, misunderstanding, distance, addiction, greed, immigrating. Differing ideas/philosophies/theology/goals; partisanship, arrogance, entitlement, strained racial and ethnic relationships. Science vs. popular vs. group-think. Shame; loss of many kinds.

2. WHAT RECONCILES RELATIONSHIPS?

Then we explored how relationships can be mended, reconciled, bridged. What is needed? Trust, waiting, observation, listening, patience, perseverance. Taking steps like: mutual apology, having the will to reach out; offering hospitality; physical touch; courage, respect, wisdom. Story telling and listening; better communication; valuing the other, desire/willingness, knowing when to give space, watching our “vibrational tone.” Hanging out together, paying attention to timing and stepping out of self.

The day was filled with joy, sacred time apart, and building loving community, all while soaking up God’s creation and surrounding ourselves with beauty while pondering meaningful ideas. I hope you will join us next time for the variety of retreats that CUCC is offering. Invite your friends!

Blessing, Rebecca



CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

We said a fond "farewell for now" to Judi & Jo Beran, smiling from their porch in Chalk Creek on Oct. 5, 2021.

Wonderful part of our church family in CO and TX both!



NEW FERGUSON ADDRESS

Jean & SW Ferguson
13775 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.
#204
Beaverton, OR 87009
hm: 503-941-9072
cell remains the same: 802-310-2742

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 or anniversary.*

RECYCLING AT CUCC SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM

The dumpster with the yellow lid is CUCC's recycling bin. 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. The recycling is picked up every week. (Don't dump your bag in with the stuff—empty the bag of stuff into the dumpster and reuse your bag!)

The subscription program is now available to those outside of CUCC, so let your friends and neighbors know that they can also sign up for \$8/month.

Contact Nancy in the office to sign up: 395-2544, office.bvcucc@gmail.com.

Make checks out to CUCC and put "recycling" in the memo line.

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.

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

Nan Bohe cell (720) 616-3546; rm (720) 542-1776
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) & Koby Close
5413 W Caribbean Ln., Glendale, AZ 85306

Paul Dormeister (262) 344-2414
5522 64th St., Kenosha, WI 53142

Marge Dorfmeister (970) 812-5119
Mesa View
601 Horizon Pl., Rm. 133
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Lorraine Green (719) 207-4827
Columbine Manor, Rm. D2-1
530 W 16th St., Salida, CO 81201

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) 986-2216
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

November 2—Angie Williams
November 5—Gale Shaw
November 9—Scott Colvin
November 9—Lindsey Close
November 10—Cindy Helm
November 12—Jasmine White
November 13—Bonnie Taylor
November 19—Scott McCuaig
November 20—Steve Jackson
November 25—Joan Wilder
November 27—Linda Rak
November 30—Leonard Nyberg

ANNIVERSARIES

November 20—Herb & Merilee Daugherty
November 22—Bob & Marilyn Frykholm



Don't see your special day listed?
**Please contact Nancy in the office at 719-395-2544
or office.bvcucc@gmail.com .**

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Joan Wilder—Healing
Roger Cason—Healing
Nan Bohe—Healing
Sarah & Rod 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
Julia Munson (sister-in-law of Adele Jackson)—Healing
Charlotte Smith—Healing
Consuelo Arriola (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Maritza Kaniewski (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Lisa Hust (friend of Bob Stocker & Ellen Kely)—Healing
Elvin Benton—Healing
Fred Stearns (friend of Betsy Neas)—Healing
Vivian York—Healing
The Family of Kyrstinn Rasmussen (Rebecca Poos' cousin)—Comfort



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

WMS Luncheon
Thursday, November 18
12:00-1:30pm
Theme: "Thanks-Living"
Bring a salad to share!

Our time together in November will be a time to share those many blessings of this past year—all the things that we are thankful for and what we are looking forward to in 2022! Plans for the coming year will be discussed.

Please mark your calendar for *Sunday, December 12th* for bringing cookies for the fellowship time after the Christmas Program.

May you be blessed to celebrate this Thanksgiving with loved ones and family.
Peace and JOY!

Blessings, Marge Erickson, WMS President

LA PUENTE HYGIENE BAGS

25 La Puente Hygiene Bags delivered to Alamosa.
Thank you for your contribution with items and cash.
We appreciate your help!



What a beautiful blue sky and vista for the Co-Ed Retreat held at the Erickson's in Nathrop on Oct. 5!





view from the Mountain

“SECRET RECIPE”

The Winchester Sun—January 24, 2006

We were in graduate school working on a migrating bird study, and as part of the package, we were given a wonderful log cabin on the University Experimental Farm in which to live. As a young wife and mother who was trying to continue studies, I found the cabin was a real bonus to me, as was the atmosphere of the farm, 100 miles from the bustle of the university.

But one of our “fringe jobs” was to entertain anyone whom the Ecology Department wanted to send to the farm, which would almost always include a meal we would have to prepare. Early on, I decided to create an organic vegetable garden on the farm so that most of what I served would be from this non-polluted soil. They thought it was a great idea, and Jean’s Garden was born.

One late summer day, we got a call from the university that a very well-known man and his wife would be coming up. In fact, this gentleman was a Noble Peace Prize recipient, so I wanted to make a special “deal of a meal” and, indeed, I did!

Several weeks before, we also were trying to entertain guests by taking them up to Louisiana, Missouri, to board a riverboat for a scenic ride through the area we were studying. While carrying my baby, I tripped and fell all the way down the steep levee steps leading to the boat. It was a mother-instinct-moment. Without even thinking, I tucked him close to my body so that, as I rolled, he never even touched the steps. I, however, was landing on jutted elbows, managing to break my left elbow in a compound fracture.

Our riverboat excursion was aborted, and a trip to the local hospital rendered me with a heavy cast from under my shoulder blade down to my fingertips. A hole had been left for my thumb to protrude and the cast covered the palm of my left hand.

To say this complicated my life is a giant understatement. Even sweeping the old wood plank floors was a real trick. However, when we were asked to entertain this famous couple, I was determined to make it a perfect meal.

Among the many vegetables I grew were beautiful potatoes, and I wanted to make mashed potatoes as part of the meal. I had help from my little brother Jim in the gathering of vegetables and in peeling and dicing them. All was on schedule. We’d set a great long table outside the cabin, and Jim had done a great job of placing plates and napkins and utensils around.

Everything was on schedule, and all that was left was mashing the potatoes. Actually, the guests were beginning to seat themselves around the table and nibble on my homemade pickles, so I shoed everybody out of the cabin kitchen while I mashed the potatoes in peace. They were piping hot and smelled wonderful. I added milk and lots of real butter and began to mash the mixture. Now, you need to visualize what happened next. I had the old- fashioned hand beater where you hold the handle in one hand and turned with the other. It so happened that I held it with my left hand, pushing it into my palm, which was covered in the plaster cast.

Feeling a bit flustered by that time, I was turning that rotor like a crazy woman, making the blades burrow deeply into the soft potatoes. All of the sudden I looked down, and where the handle of the hand beater was pressing into my left palm, a fine, steady mist of plaster-of-Paris from my cast was fluttering into the mixture. I froze. How much plaster had gone into the bowl, and is it harmful to digest, and—the most burning question of all—could anybody tell? I mean, potatoes are white, and so is plaster and there were no chunks of it down in there. Oh, Lord help me. In one frantic and irrational split second, I decided to go right ahead and serve that warm bowl of mashed potatoes. I did! They looked especially tasty because they had a little—um—texture and body to them. Actually, of all the vegetables, the mashed potatoes were the main hit. I silently prayed two things as everyone ate: That they be eaten before they “set,” and that nobody got sick, which they didn’t. As a matter of fact, days later, I received a thank you note from the famous man’s wife and, in it, she said she’d like my recipe for the delicious mashed potatoes! She added that maybe it was the fact they were organically grown. Well, this is the first time I have given out my secret recipe, but I wouldn’t recommend anyone try it.

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)

INSPIRATION CORNER

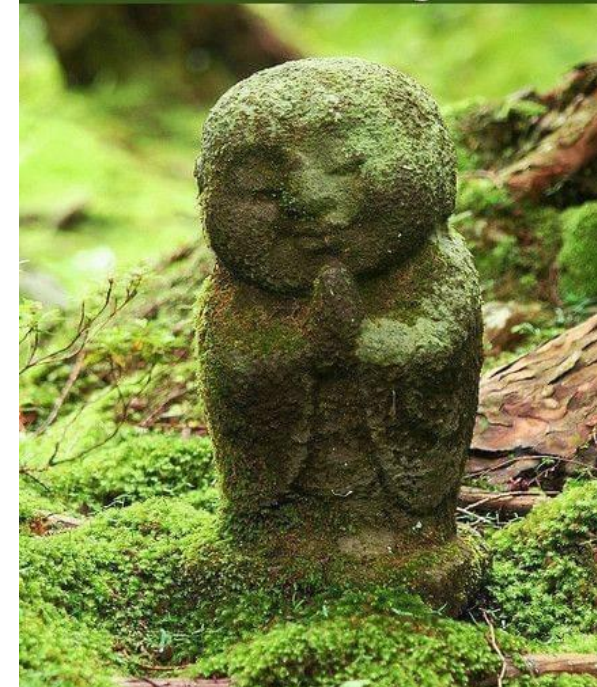
PAISLEY UPDATE

I had a chance to catch up with my great-niece Paisley over Labor Day (and with her fast scooting, that isn't easy)! She has been going to physical therapy since June. It is amazing how things have changed. She still uses braces on her legs but can hold one person's hand and walk along with them, for a short way. I saw a video of her making it across the therapy room all by herself. She looks like she is getting quite tall. She still needs to be fed through a tube but will sit at the table and gently taste. Her communication skills continue to improve. It's not about talking, just communicating in various ways. Of course, her smile continues to fill the space around her.


Great-aunt Janet Steiner



*Go easy on yourself.
Whatever you do today,
let it be enough.*



CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS




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

The group is reading
"This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger.

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



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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CLARKE & SCOUTS


In late September, Clarke Poos showed our Troop 67 Scouts some of the treasures that have been dug up at the parsonage over the years. The Scouts are working on their archaeology badge.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES
GUIDE

Looking for community resources and services, either for yourself or others? Mike Orrill and his team have created a website to help all of Chaffee County connect and easily find what services and resources are available. Please check out the following Chaffee Resources site: www.chaffeeresources.com.

CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Your continued support is appreciated! Please place items in donation box in the narthex (under coat rack)

Always welcome:

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

ARKANSAS VALLEY CHRISTIAN MISSION

The Christian Mission needs donations of peanut butter & jelly, non-perishable canned goods, fresh items from your garden, and, of course, financial contributions to help local families who need emergency funds due to job loss, evictions, etc.

Checks should be taken directly to the mission on Tues., Wed., or Fridays, 11:00am - 2:00pm, or call Helen Duncan at 395-5768.



ST. ROSE OF LIMA FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, Nov. 6
9:00am-3:00pm
Lunch 11:00am-1:00pm

Queen-size Quilt Raffle
"Bucket" Raffle with 5 Prizes
Crafts, Baked Goods
Carry-out only Lunch—Chili and/or Chicken
Noodle Soup Meal (\$6)



GINGERBREAD HOUSE BAZAAR
Saturday, Nov. 13
Faith Lutheran Church
15440 W Main (CR 306)
9:00am-2:00pm
Lunch for sale 11:00am-1:00pm

Boxed Homemade Candy & Cookies by the pound
Coffee & Homemade Cinnamon Rolls
Seasonal & Craft Items, Stocking Stuffers, Quilt Items
Preserves, and More!



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

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AE=Adult Ed. Rm. CH=Choir Room D=Drama Room FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen S=Sanctuary PO=Pastor's Office RR=Rainbow Room #7=Room #7	1 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	2	3	4 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 10am-12pm Love Is the Way Book Discussion Group-RR	5 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	6 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
7 DST ENDS 10am Communion Sunday Indoor Worship 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter (Susan Thistlethwaite) -FH	8 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	9 10-11:30am Faith Ed. Team-AE 11-12am Worship/ Cong. Life Team -#7 4-6pm Outreach Team-AE 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 7pm TELLS	10	11 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 10am-12pm Love Is the Way Book Discussion Group-RR	12 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	13 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
14 10am Indoor Worship Clef Notes Sing 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -FH	15 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 7pm TELLS	17 7pm Council	18 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 10am-12pm Love Is the Way Book Discussion Group-RR 12-1:30pm WMS Luncheon -FH, K	19 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	20 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
21 10am Indoor Worship 11am Birthdays Celebration 11:30am Hanging of the Greens 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -FH 	22 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	23 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 7pm TELLS	24	25 THANKSGIVING 	26 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	27 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
28 10am Indoor Worship 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -FH	29 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	30 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 7pm TELLS				

APPRECIATIONS

KUDOS COLUMN



Huge kudos to Helen Duncan, the Outreach Team, the Treasurers, Ken Rehborn, and all the Backpack Program volunteers for their efforts with the successful Chaffee County Community Fund/Sangre de Cristo grant award!

Plus, big kudos to all involved in securing a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan and its forgiveness! We don't have to pay it back. :)

THANK YOU FROM RHONDA FUNSTON

Enclosed is a special gift as a way to thank everyone in the church who helped with Karen Bowers' memorial and estate.

An extra special thank you to Herb & Merilee Daugherty with providing the location to hold the Celebration of Life for Karen.

Respectfully,
Rhonda Funston

CUCC IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



CUCC CLEF NOTES

New music group forming- please join us!
Wednesday, November 3
6:00pm-7:00pm



This is a musical invitation to sing together, again. It is just a very gentle beginning. The first Wed. of the month has been chosen for practice and the group will sing on the second Sunday of the month. (Please note—practice is *not* every week.)

Of course, this includes COVID considerations, both on a county level and a personal level. Everyone would participate according to their comfort zone. And, we all know that can change from day to day.

The first Sunday that the Clef Notes will contribute to the worship service will be Nov. 14. There are, also, plans for a Christmas program. Please feel free to join us!

~Janet Steiner

FRONT DOOR CODE

The new code is 0217 (zero followed by the church's street number).

COMMUNION SERVICES NOTICE

Please bring your own communion elements to the Communion Worship services until further notice. Thank you very much!

BY-LAWS UPDATE

The Bylaws Committee is finishing up their work on the revisions and will be providing congregational meetings at the church to show and explain the proposed changes. The email blasts will let you know when we will begin.

The By-laws Committee is made up of Kathy Roman, Mark Wolters, Ann Condra, and Merilee Daugherty.

CUCC TEAM REPORTS

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

We have had a good turn out for Conversations that Matter on Sunday afternoons at 4:00! We have been discussing being able to dialogue across the political divide. In early November we are discussing "Telling the Truth about American History," otherwise known as Critical Race Theory. We will have a guest speaker, Susan Thistlethwaite, join us by Zoom on November 7. Then we will discuss immigration issues, with local Laurie Benson joining us on November 21 to share her experiences helping migrants crossing the border.

We hope you are reading and enjoying the all-church read, "Love is the Way" by Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry! It is very enlightening in many ways. Rebecca will be incorporating his ideas into her sermons in coming weeks.

TELLS is now reading "This Tender Land." The group meets on Tuesday evenings. Contact Rebecca if interested in joining.

Donna Maloney, Chair

Worship Team

The Team meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 11:00am.

We ask that *every Sunday* you sign in (check mark) on the COVID sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary. There is also a clipboard for sign-ups for Head Usher, Greeter, Lector, and Flowers.

For Communion, we continue to ask that everyone bring their own bread and juice. We will re-assess in January.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. We will have Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 21, after church. This is also Birthday Sunday, so we'll have cake and then decorate. If everyone can help, we'll have the church decorated in no time.

We plan to sell poinsettias to help decorate the church. There will be a sign-up with the price. There will be more details in the weekly email blast.

Starting this month, the choir sings the second Sunday of every month,

Linda Rak, Chair

FAITHFUL GIVING HOW ARE WE DOING?

Giving for the 4 weeks of Oct. 3-Oct. 24: \$12,861.27
For an average of \$3,215.32 per week.

To meet our Budget, an average of \$3000 per week and \$12,000 per month is needed.

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

Outreach/Community & World Team News —November greetings!

SOCKSGIVING!!! Are you ready for the giving season? We hope so. We are joining the other churches in the Rocky Mtn. Conference in collecting NEW socks for distribution within *our* area for the homeless and the needy who live among us.

Please note the posters in the narthex, and you can't miss the large, colorful box for your donations. In 2019 we collected 700 pairs of socks. The socks will go to Caring and Sharing in Salida and possibly our own mission in BV. NEW SOCKS ONLY! CHILDREN, WOMEN's, AND MEN'S SIZES! Until November 21. Bring your donations on Sundays or anytime. THANK YOU!

Helen Duncan, Chair

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 is open to listening to concerns, and acting within an atmosphere of confidentiality. Let us hear from you.

Helen Duncan Arlene Waldorf Mike Evans
Kathy Roman

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We will soon be forming a Nominating Committee to select people to serve on Teams or be the Moderator, Vice Moderator, or Clerk. This church cannot run without volunteers to take on a portion of the work. You do not need to be a member to serve on a Team. Please give some prayerful thought to becoming a larger part of your church.

Merilee Daugherty, Moderator

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH!

Offer to pick them up!
Let's gather together as a church family!

"CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER" (CTM)

Adult Education at CUCC

Sundays, 4:00pm-5:30pm in the fellowship hall

Masks are encouraged.

Sunday, November 7
4:00pm (MST)

We welcome Susan Thistlethwaite!

Join us for a Conversations That Matter hybrid in-person/Zoom conversation with Susan Thistlethwaite! Susan will lead a discussion on "Telling the Truth About American History." You don't want to miss this!

Click [here](#) to join by Zoom or call in by dialing 346-248-7799, meeting ID: 844 2123 2228

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!

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!

CUCC Council Minutes - October 20, 2021

Present: Moderator Merilee Daugherty, Vice Moderator Betsy Neas, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Debby Cason, Bowie Duncan, Helen Duncan, Marjorie Erickson, Judy Hassell, Ellen Kely, Donna Maloney, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Kathy Roman, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf. Meeting was held in-person in the fellowship hall with a Zoom connection for two participants.

Welcome, Call to Order, and Opening Prayer 7:12pm by Merilee.

The format of the meeting was a round table discussion of the status of the church. Major topics for the evening were: What should we be doing? Where are we at? Church member attrition. Evaluate the perceived interaction of the church structure, teams and bylaws. Merilee added that Betsy and Rebecca have been researching officers and teams, noting a current shortage of team members. She also noted this year’s Sunday indoor church attendances have been small, with mostly the same people each Sunday.

What should we be doing?

- 1. There are about 23 available members on current teams and in officer positions. Two of the teams have only two or three participating members. Suggestion: Put aside the two-term limit to allow team continuity and function.
- 2. The core group is current Council members and regular Sunday attendees.
- 3. Can we streamline/meld/reduce the teams in light of the limited number of members to add flexibility and maintain function?
- 4. What is the status of contributions to church income at various \$ levels, so we can determine projected income for the next budget year?
- 5. Should we continue and consistently promote regular services (no masks, no regulated seating distancing) whenever possible—instead of jumping back and forth between overly-cautious restrictive measures—which might increase participation?
- 6. Don’t lose track of who we are.

Where are we at?

Fortunately, we have a lot of activities going on. There are re-instated community group meetings at the church, coffee hour birthday celebrations, and the re-start of choir and music at the services. How can we continue, but reduce the time spent by individuals on meetings and the activities themselves? The current structure is not serving us. There is member attrition (deaths and spiritual-need withdrawals) and COVID losses (permanent and temporary) in participation. How do we increase involvement?

Solutions:

- 1. Do we need a year of discernment, before adopting the updated/redrafted bylaws? It might be advantageous to delay finalizing them a little longer in light of the last year and a half of COVID-related requirements and adjusted operations. Tweaking them a little more might provide improved flexibility and continuity in our operating structure.
- 2. Consider unifying church government a bit, such as melding the Facilities and Finance Teams. Should we continue the quarterly congregational meetings to inform and allow discussion of upcoming events and garner wider support?
- 3. Allow one- or two-member teams. Share the leadership within the team to reduce the burden on the Chair. Solicit temporary helpers for limited/defined tasks. Foster collaborative venues that draw on two or more teams and volunteers. Take a project and run with it!
- 4. Allow and foster events, needs, and defined tasks through sign-ups of individuals, without restrictive official meetings and minutes.

What will draw people into the church?

- 1. A ‘Soup Kitchen’ was suggested, which might draw ‘on-the-fence’ and ‘COVID-cautious’ community individuals.
- 2. The Zoom coffee hours after Sunday church were fruitful and spiritually fulfilling, keeping people in the loop, increasing communication, and building friendship.
- 3. Do things as they come up. Pull in people to help.

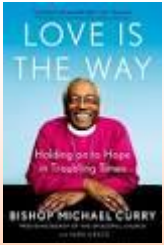
Follow-up:

- 1. Bylaw tweaking considerations by the bylaw team of Kathy Roman, Mark Wolters, Ann Condra, and Merilee Daugherty, with meetings to be scheduled with the congregation to be ready to vote on changes at the Annual Meeting.
- 2. Seriously consider a food ministry–soup kitchen.
- 3. Faith Education/Outreach Teams will reach out to attract teachers and concerned individuals for Conversations That Matter and Adult Study topics.

Adjournment: Meeting closed with Rebecca mentioning prayer concerns followed by a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned promptly at 9:00pm.

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)



LOVE IS THE WAY
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
"Holding Onto Hope in Troubling Times"
Thursdays
10:00am-12:00pm
Rainbow Room at CUCC
Love is the Way by Bishop Curry

The group is reading a chapter of Bishop Curry’s 12-chapter book per week. Facilitated by Molly Stuart and Betsy Neas. Call Betsy at 719-966-9894 for more information.

OUR COMMUNITY COVENANT
Congregational United Church of Christ of Buena Vista

- * We seek to think of each other as Children of God, made in the image of God, to be treated as sisters and brothers in Christ. We will strive to listen respectfully to how others prefer to be treated.
- * We will act with kindness and respect while speaking truth in love and being honest with each other. Therefore, we will seek to listen with interest and curiosity, keeping an open mind.
- * We will share our time, gifts, and talents, bringing positive energy to groups and projects.
- * We will build up the community by bringing any grievances we have directly to the persons involved or to the Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee.
- * We will seek honest reconciliation of disagreements and practice forgiveness.
- * We will each try to be worthy of the trust and confidence of our fellow members.

(Adopted by CUCC Council September 15, 2021)