

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

***Sunday Worship Schedule
Indoor In-Person 10:00am (MST)
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
December 2021



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

December, the end of yet another year, yet a time of joy. The birth of Christ gives us hope, a new beginning. We are all praying that there will soon be an end to the COVID-19 virus so we can resume singing from the choir loft, sharing the elements of communion as prepared by the Worship Team, feeling truly comfortable fellowshiping.

We remember the Christmases of the past. The children waking us early on Christmas day, their excitement overwhelming, our lack of sleep needing to be dealt with. It was fun to watch the littlest being more interested in the wrapping paper and boxes. Our elementary age children, so easily caught up in the barrage of toy advertisements, perhaps disappointed to not receive what we believed was a piece of junk. We hoped that we had purchased exactly what our moody teen had requested. For many of us, our children are dealing with the same things, plus having to juggle which set of parents they will bless with their presence (maybe going to both homes, being served a full meal at both).

Other elements of Christmas which are engraved on our hearts include caroling at the homes of our church family. Even off pitch, it all sounds so beautiful. The faces of the folks listening just light up, so glad to have been remembered, grateful to hear their favorite carol (we try to avoid O Holy Night). Decorating the church followed by Sunday mornings with the sanctuary's fireplace lit is so uplifting and comforting. We remember those saints who helped with the decorating in the past. Our tummies remember the sharing of food items left from the Bazaar.

Candlelit Christmas Eve, where we crowd into the sanctuary with our extended family in tow, is an opportunity for memories and rituals that all present will carry in their hearts until the end. I remember attending services with my grand and great-grands—my how old and shriveled they looked at the time, in their early 60's and 80's. I'm glad none of us look that way!

I encourage us all to draw forth those precious memories—spend some time with them. Those memories will refresh us, bring us away from the stresses we have in our day-to-day lives. Our saints will return to us and, as long as we bring those memories into our hearts and minds, will dwell with us.

From 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen':

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace.

Merry Christmas to you all and hallelujah! Christ is here to walk with each of us.

Merilee Daugherty, Moderator



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

**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.**



PASTOR'S ARTICLE, December 2021

Happy December! Wow. Where did November go? Where did the summer and fall go? We are embarking with gusto into Advent at CUCC, and watching and praying that the pandemic doesn't prevent us from gathering safely. We hope you will join us for Worship, Advent & Christmas Events, and Exciting Education offerings this month. Join on Zoom if you like!

November is a big month in our family, as we have been celebrating the lives of our parents Jean, Gene, and Mildred, honoring their memories and shedding some tears. November is *also* a month of celebrating! My 25-year "Ordiversary" is this month, and I've been reflecting back on the highlights of 25+ years of ministry and memories. I graduated from VST seminary in April 1996 (while six months pregnant) and began ministry in my first call in June/July. I gave birth to a bouncing baby boy named Rocky two days before the first Sunday in the pulpit in Wiggins, Colorado. I was installed in October as Pastor and Teacher with co-pastor Cal Kemper and ordained on November 3 with friends and family all around, with that bouncing baby boy in our arms!

Serving CUCC of Buena Vista has been a huge highlight in my decades of ministry. I have shared many pictures of the highlight reel on Facebook. Here are a few from the almost 13 years with BVCUCC.

Blessing, Rebecca



CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS CHRISTMAS "HERITAGE" LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 16

12:00pm-2:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Lunch is provided! Please bring "Heritage" cookies or dessert to share and a story about how your family celebrated Christmas. The 2022 budget and leadership for the coming year will be presented.

Blessings, Marge Erickson, WMS President

FRESH COFFEE IN STOCK

A new order was received in late November. A list of the coffee varieties and roasts is displayed in the cabinet in the Adult Ed. room. **What's New?** Decaf is now *McCaf Decaf*, which has better flavor than the Equal Exchange default decaf. Note that Mama Tierra and Sisters' come in 16oz. bags – a better deal for you! Baking Cocoa and Hot Cocoa are also stocked.

Thank you for supporting the Equal Exchange Program that gives a fair price to farmers in third world countries!

-Ron Rak

Ground Coffees: Mama Tierra, African Roots, Sisters' Blend, Salvadoran, French Roast
Whole Beans: Ethiopian, Love Buzz, Midnite Sun, French Roast

BE IN THE KNOW!

- ♦ Sunday messages are interactive dialogue now! Join us Sundays at 10:00am in person to explore scripture and our faith together!
- ♦ 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 add, and the convenience of single-stream recycling. The recycling is picked up every week.

The subscription program is available to those outside of CUCC, so let your friends 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 to CUCC; "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 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

December 2—Doyle Nyberg
December 7—Corey Tucker
December 10—Christopher Colvin
December 12—Daniel Daugherty
December 12—Dennis Daugherty
December 19—Gregg Meserole
December 21—Norm Holloway
December 25—Noel Ekin
December 26—Betty Gwynn
December 29—Marge Erickson

ANNIVERSARIES

December 10—Carl & Liz Hansen
December 20—Les & Mary Messamer
December 21—Frank & Linda Carpenter
December 31—Elvin & Pat Benton



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
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
Elvin Benton—Healing
Fred Stearns (friend of Betsy Neas)—Healing
Warren Montgomery—Strength
The Family of Arlene Waldorf's nephew, Scott, who passed away suddenly and leaves two young children—Comfort
The Family of Jean Buster on the passing of her son Mike from COVID—Comfort
Kaylynne Pomfret—Healing
Frank Tooze (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Cathy Surgenor (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing



**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 3**



3

COLLEGIATE PEAKS CHORALE
7:00PM-9:00PM
CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY
CHURCH & LIVESTREAM

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 4**



4

COLLEGIATE PEAKS CHORALE
3:00PM-5:00PM
CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY
CHURCH & LIVESTREAM

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 19**



19

ADVENT FOUR WORSHIP 10:00AM
CHRISTMAS CAROLING
4:00PM-6:00PM

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021



**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 5**



5

ADVENT TWO
COMMUNION WORSHIP
10:00AM

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 12**



12

ADVENT THREE
ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM "MORE THAN A GIFT"
10:00AM

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 17**



17

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION
4:00PM-6:00PM

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 24**



24

CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
7:00PM

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 26**



26

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP &
FAVORITE CAROL SING
10:00AM



view from the Mountain

“Celebrating Christmas on the Waves”
The Winchester Sun—January 3, 2006



It was like 10,000 diamonds undulating in the water—warm waters in the bay—as the 35 boats, all decorated, leisurely lined themselves up to dance in chorus as they slowly made their way in and out of the canals and harbors. There were all sizes of boats, from little fishing floaters up to one yacht that was 150 feet long. We were guests on a 75-foot yacht, along with about 50 other island residents, and it sparkled with thousands of lights on both decks. I felt we were on the most beautiful one of all.

There was a lot of food and drink, and spirits were high and loving. Even if you didn’t know everybody, it was easy to talk with everyone. There is something very special about cutting through the water, surrounded by a lot of other boats, the breeze like a gentle hand running fingers through your hair and touching your cheek. Joy seemed to fill the bay.

It’s called the Christmas Flotilla and is the community’s way of celebrating Christmas every year. It is unique in that island life incorporates the water—ocean, island waterways, canals—and many residents own boats. I grew up on an island and I’m still and forever completely in love and awe of the water and harbors and boats. It just feels right to me, to be part of this flotilla celebration this year. It makes Christmas very special.

We boarded around 4:45pm, and it wasn’t until 6pm that the boat parade started. It was dark by then, and I cannot tell you how beautiful all the lights and decorations looked on every single boat. Their reflections on the water make it look almost other-worldly.

As you know, I love people and I love to talk to everybody, so pretty much the first hour that’s what we were doing. But it was inevitable that I found my way to the bow where all the sensations of being afloat seem to be at their height. As I stood there, I was a part of the up and down side to side roll that I so dearly recognize.

About 8pm we all gathered on the bow and began to sing Christmas carols. It was like heavenly angels singing, and many of the people on the other boats began to sing as well. It gave me goose bumps. I mean, here we were, a thousand miles from home, standing on a luxurious yacht among many who were strangers to us, singing about the joy of Christmas, the miracle of Jesus. And, all along the sea wall for miles, people had gathered to watch the parade of boats filled with people singing and wishing them a Merry Christmas. There was mansion after mansion along with way, whose owners had come out of their splendor to offer back, “And a Merry Christmas to you.” Often it was in a different language, but that only made it more special to me. Just think about it. People from every walk of life, every nationality, the rich and the not-so-rich, all, for that brief few moments on a little island in south Florida, came together to join hearts across the warm waters, all celebrating the very same thing—the birth of a baby.

It truly got to me, humbled me, filled me. It was a huge “evener,” reducing us and showing us we all we are simply the children of God, reminding us that no matter who we are or what we have or how fancy our lifestyle is, we can stand on boats and sea walls and private docks and reach out as if trying to touch one another as we wish each other a Merry Christmas. It was truly a blessed night.

The view from the ocean is wondrous.

Jean Brody



INSPIRATION CORNER

10 THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“You must accept me as your personal Lord and Savior.”

HE DID SAY:

“Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of God.”

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“Non-Christians will go to hell.”

HE DID SAY:

“Anyone who verbally abuses another is in danger of hell.”

JESUS DIDN’T SAY:

“God never gives you more trouble than you can handle.”

HE DID SAY:

“In this world you will have trouble, but fear not, I have overcome the world.”

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“Love the sinner, hate the sin.”

HE DID SAY:

Actually, Jesus talked about being hated, but never urged hating anyone or anything.

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“All lives matter.”

HE DID (essentially) SAY:

“Samaritan lives, and other marginalized lives, matter.”

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“When you are attacked, strike back twice as hard.”

HE DID SAY:

“Love your enemies. Turn the other cheek.”

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“Blessed are those with superior firepower.”

HE DID SAY:

“Blessed are the peacemakers and the meek.”

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“I won’t help you lest you become a lazy, dependent freeloader.”

HE DID SAY:

“Come to me all you who are weary and heavily burdened.”

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“Wealth is a sign of God’s favor!”

HE DID SAY:

“Woe to you who are rich.”

JESUS NEVER SAID:

“I am God.”

HE DID SAY:

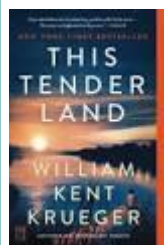
“I am one with God.”

RMC CONNECTIONS

“AWAKEN! AN ANTI-RACIST ADVENT DEVOTIONAL”

A gift from the Rocky Mountain Conference—please click [here](#) and engage this Advent in prayer. Printed copies are available in the kiosk in the narthex.

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



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

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—Zoom/in-person hybrid
 Contact Grace Church to get on the list
 and for any updates.
admin@gracechurchbvco.org or 719-395-8868

COMMUNITY NEWS


AGE STRONG CHAFFEE EVENT
Thursday, Dec. 9
5:30pm-6:30pm
A Church—419 D St., Salida
 Join in for the "Let's End Ageism" TED Talk
 and more.
 Entertainment by TJ Hittle
 For more information, call 970-309-9145

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.chaffeerresources.com.

COLLEGIATE PEAKS CHORALE
 presents
"TOGETHER AGAIN"
A Christmas Concert
Friday, December 3, 7:00pm
Saturday, December 4, 3:00pm
Clearview Community Church
or watch live online at
clearviewcommunity.org
 featuring selections from
 Handel's Messiah
 White Christmas medley
 Your Favorite Classics
 and more!
 Donations gladly accepted at the door.



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.

THE NOTEABLES & YOU'VE GOT MALE
"Celebration of Light"
Music for the Holiday Season
Friday, Dec. 10, 7:00pm—Clearview Church, BV
Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:00pm—1st Presbyterian Church, Salida
Sunday, Dec. 12, 3:00pm—SteamPlant, Salida
 Face masks and proof of vaccination or negative COVID test within three days of the
 concert are required. \$10 suggested donation
www.salidasings.org; 719-539-2428

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

MINI-BLESSINGS HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY
Friday, Dec. 10 & Saturday, Dec. 11
6:00pm-8:30pm
McPhelemy Park
\$3.00 or \$10/car
 Including new scenes and Disney characters! Please enjoy this holiday
 treat as you support the programs and wonderful mini-horses that do
 so much for the community!

December 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			1	2 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 10am-12pm Love Is the Way Book Discussion Group -RR	3 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE	4 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7 10am-12pm LWV Poinsettia Drive-by Pick-up-CH, Back Hall 11am-4pm CC Equity Coalition Health Fair -FH, park. lot
5 10am Communion Sunday Indoor Worship 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -FH	6 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	7 10-11:30am Faith Ed. Team -AE 11-12am Republican Women Christmas Party-FH, K 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	8 6-7pm Clef Notes-CH	9 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 10am-12pm Love Is the Way Book Discussion Group -RR	10 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE	11 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
12 10am All-Church Christmas Program Indoor Worship Clef Notes Sing 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -FH	13 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 9am-4:30pm Monarch Quilters Party -FH	14 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH 4-6pm Outreach Team -AE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	15 11-12am Worship/Cong. Life Team-#7 7pm Council	16 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 12-2pm WMS Luncheon-K, FH 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	17 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE 4-6pm Christmas Meditation-S	18 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
19 10am Indoor Worship 11am Birthdays Celebration  4pm Caroling	20 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS 
26 10am Indoor Christmas Worship & Favorite Carol Sing 	27 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	28 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE 	

APPRECIATIONS

KUDOS KOLUMN



Kudos and thanks to the Bylaws Committee—Mark Wolters, Kathy Roman, Ann Condra, and Merilee Daugherty—for all their hard work revising and bringing to Council the proposed Revised Bylaws. Now it's the congregation's turn to weigh in!

GREETINGS FROM BLANCHETTS

Dear Friends,
Blessings! Sure do read my newsletter and send prayers your way regularly. Hopefully, next summer we will make it to visit again.
Blessing in Him,
John & Sharon Blanchett

CUCC IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—"MORE THAN A GIFT"
Sunday, December 12, 10:00am
Coffee Hour Reception to Follow



CUCC POINSETTIA ORDERS

Wanting to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season? Order a poinsettia from Janet! The cost is \$18 for a red 6 1/2" plant.
Order forms are available Sunday mornings along with the bulletin or can be picked up from the church office.
Payment and order forms are due no later than Sunday, Dec. 5.

FRONT DOOR CODE

The 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!

BYLAWS UPDATE—PROPOSED BYLAWS

These proposed Bylaws will be voted on at the next Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 6. Please review both the bylaws and the explanation page. Hard copies can be printed for you by contacting the church office.

Click [here](#) for the Explanation Page.
Click [here](#) for the proposed Bylaws.

CUCC TEAM REPORTS

The Faith Education Team Conversations That Matter and more!

FE is going strong with several groups meeting! Advent will start on Nov. 28 with a screening of "Mission: Joy!" about Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama and their collaboration on their book, *The Book of Joy*. This will be an all-church screening, and due to COVID concerns, is planned on being accessed virtually at this time.

Conversations that Matter will enter Advent with discussions on your spiritual journey and stories about your Christmas traditions. We will not be meeting December 19-January 2 and will resume January 10.

Molly and Betsy are leading a discussion on Michael Curry's *Love is the Way* on Thursday mornings at 10:00am and will be continuing through December 16. Contact Betsy Neas if you would like to join.

TELLS is continuing with *This Tender Land* on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. If interested in joining, contact Rebecca!

Donna Maloney, Chair

Worship Team

~November 28 is the start of Advent.

~The All-Church Christmas Program will be December 12. Afterwards, the Women's Missionary Society will provide cookies and we will celebrate the December birthdays.

~The Christmas Meditation will be on Friday, December 17 from 4:00pm-6:00pm like last year with music and candles. The community is invited. It is drop-in.

~Christmas caroling to shut-ins will be on Sunday, December 19, from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Then the carolers will go to Betsy Neas's house to sing over the phone to long distance people and have hot chocolate and cookies.

~We will have the Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm with candles lit while singing Silent Night. There will be no communion.

~Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary are available for purchase for \$18.00. Order forms and payment are due by Dec. 5.

Linda Rak, Chair

FAITHFUL GIVING HOW ARE WE DOING?

Giving for the 4 weeks of : \$
For an average of \$ 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 —December greetings!

Socksgiving was a great success! Thanks to all who contributed new socks for men, women, and kids!! Our **242** pairs of socks are being distributed in Chaffee County.

The CUCC Backpack Program has received a commitment of \$4,000 from the Optimists Club in BV! Wonderful! The Team is so gratified that we have such loyal community support for this worthy program.

The UCC Christmas Fund offering will be taken in late December. This offering especially supports retired clergy and their spouses.

Helen Duncan, Chair

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

~Heating—Mark is working with Budget Plumbing & Heating to get the back boiler back up after a pump failed. The parts are ordered.

~Sprinkler system has all been drained.

~Some staining was done outside on benches, etc.

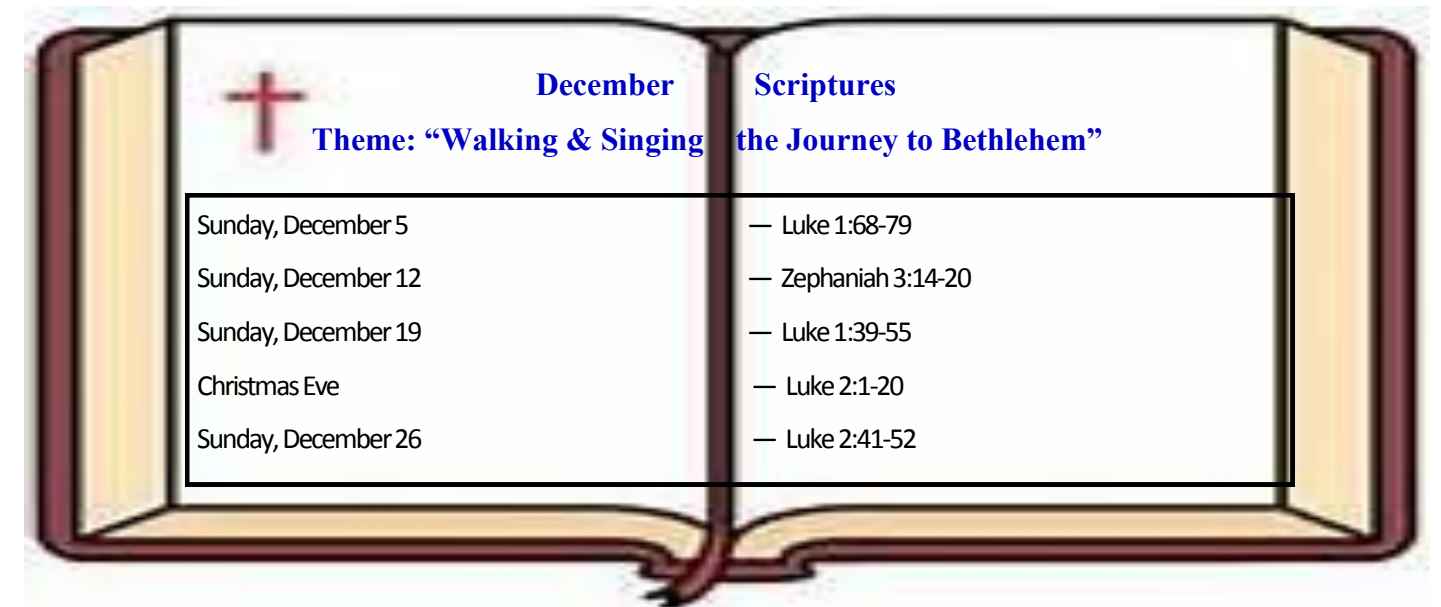
~Garage door at parsonage is being worked on.

~Double doors and crash hardware—still in progress. We're waiting on prices.

~LED lighting, speakers, and mods in FH- Ongoing as winter sets in. These will be good projects for winter.

Ron Hassell, Co-Chair

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



DID YOU KNOW? 5 Ways to Give!

1. MAIL IN to CUCC, PO Box 610, Buena Vista, CO 81211-0610
2. DROP OFF at the church.
3. Donate ONLINE at tithe.ly.
4. DONATE through the CUCC website: bvcucc.org.
5. ACH - set up Automatic Giving at your bank.

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

ONLINE GIVING PHONE APP It's an easy 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.

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER (CTM) Adult Education at CUCC Sundays, 4:00pm-5:30pm via Zoom

Click [here](#) to join by Zoom or call in by dialing 346-248-7799, meeting ID: 839 7229 4056, passcode: 590045

Get on the email list! Write to cucc.conversations@icloud.com.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

**CUCC ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022
11:30am**

**REPORTS DUE TO THE OFFICE BY
JANUARY 5, 2022**

**PACKETS AVAILABLE
JANUARY 23, 2022**

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH!

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

CUCC Council Minutes - November 17, 2021

Welcome and Opening Prayer: 7:12pm Moderator Merilee Daugherty, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Helen Duncan, Marjorie Erickson, Judy Hassell, Ron Hassell, Ellen Kely, Donna Maloney, Betsy Neas, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf, Kay Allinger. Moderator Merilee Daugherty welcomed everyone to this hybrid in-person-with-Zoom-participants meeting. She shared an opening prayer.

General Business & Reports

Minutes of October 20 Council Meeting as published in the November Newsletter were approved.

Clerk’s Report: Ron Rak reported no change in the congregation since the October meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Waldorf referred to the Income by Month report (through October) and also the 3rd Quarter Income and Expense Report issued in October. The monthly average contribution thus far in 2021 has been about \$11,500. If November and December receipts average the same amount, we will be as much as \$15,000 behind in budgeted contributions. A \$4,000 contribution from the Buena Vista Optimist Club to support the Backpack Program was noted. Income from forgiveness of the U.S. Paycheck Protection Plan loan received earlier in the year was also noted as not yet reflected in church income as of October, but will be updated in December data. Bill presented key items of a draft budget document for 2022, asking team members to review the plan such that a finalized budget proposal can be prepared for discussion and approval at the December Council meeting.

Moderator’s Report: After discussion, it was moved by Betsy/seconded by Bill that we move the Annual Meeting to Sunday, February 6 at 11:30am. Motion passed. Merilee reminded all Teams that their annual reports must be submitted to the office by January 5th to be included in the Annual Meeting report. Merilee asked permission to send the Bylaws draft to the congregation for review and comment. It had been hoped that a series of meetings could be held with the congregation, but COVID concerns have precluded that for now. The plan is to have the Bylaws voted on at the Annual Meeting. Evaluations of church staff should be completed by late November for 2021 budgetary purposes.

Continuing Business

A few months ago, Council was brought up to date regarding the filing of Chapter 11 by the Boy Scouts of America and how it may impact us. The church received legal paperwork recently and the opinion of an attorney was sought. There have never been any claims of abuse brought by the Scouts in our Troop, so we did not need to take further action. The paperwork was placed in the filing cabinet.

The recent upsurge in county COVID cases was mentioned by Merilee, and she asked Council for suggestions for desirable changes in church operations and Sunday services. No immediate changes were offered, with Council agreeing that operations can continue as they have been, in accordance with any guidance by the county Health Department. If things change, we would resort to presenting the service using Zoom.

Team Reports

Facilities: Ron Hassell said the immediate priority is to repair a broken boiler water pump for the back boiler. Evaluation of the new custodian is also scheduled. It was also requested that the temperature of the water heater be increased for continuous use.

Outreach: Helen Duncan and Betsy Neas offered suggestions for a new community outreach.

WMS: Marge Erickson noted that the November meeting was cancelled due to the increased COVID risk. The next meeting is planned for December 16 at noon.

Worship Team: Rebecca referred to the scheduled upcoming events listed below for the Advent season, starting with Hanging of the Greens on November 21.

New Business

We have filled the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, and Financial Secretary positions. We still need two people to fill positions on the Faith Education Team and at least one more person for the Finance Team. There is room for more people to serve on other Teams also. Since there is some overlap between Outreach and Visioning Teams, they will work together in the coming year.

Pastor’s Report

Pastor Rebecca reported on several areas of ministry:

* Education programs are thriving and well-attended. Working to enhance our technical capabilities to increase safe participation.

*Susan Thistlethwaite conversation with CTM was excellent and engaging. Folks joined us from across the country.

*Meet-the-Author Zoom with TELS and Rev. Marjorie Weiss was heartily engaged in by many.

*Laurie Benson, founder of Madre E Hijos, will join CTM on Nov. 21 and educate us about the border and how we can support humanitarian efforts there.

*The RMC gathers the clergy & Moderators regularly on Zoom to provide mutual support and creative sharing about ministry during and post-COVID.

*Anthony Scott, new Associate Conference Minister, is connecting with us on the Conversations list and plans a 2022 visit to CUCC. He is leading the RMC in countless efforts in anti-racism and inclusivity (Extravagant Welcome) and is interested in hearing what we are doing in these areas and teaching us more.

*The Pastor/SPT watch COVID news and public health guidance on a daily basis to adjust our gatherings and protocols as needed.

*CUCC building use continues to increase. Rebecca & Nancy work on increasing our tech capabilities and COVID-watch as we work with outside groups.

*Evaluations with staff, revising of position descriptions, and consultation with the Budget Team about staff positions are ongoing.

*Rebecca attends monthly County Senior Services meetings and consults regularly with the Area Agency on Aging and Hospice to support our seniors, as part of Pastoral Care.

*12-Week online class on Family Systems Theory as it relates to congregational leadership is exceptionally enlightening and helpful.

*Planning Christmas services and music with Arlene Waldorf (Judy Phelps is away) and singers from the community.

*Pastoral care by phone, text, in-person visits and email is going well, with help from a number of Church Angels and good follow-up communication.

Prayer Concerns/Updates

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

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 21 - Hanging of the Greens, Birthdays coffee hour, Bazaar Sale

Nov. 28 - Advent starts

Dec. 12 - All Church Program, WMS to provide cookies

Dec. 17 - 2-hour Christmas Meditation, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Dec. 19 - Caroling in-person and by phone, 4:00pm

Dec. 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm

Next regular Council Meeting is December 15, 7:00pm, via Zoom.

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)

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)