

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

***Sunday Worship Schedule
Indoor In-Person 10:00am (MST)
YouTube at [CUCCBuenaVistaCO](#)***

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
January 2022



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Happy New Year! In this new year "Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven." Matt. 5:16

Well, the Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday, February 6 (don't worry, it is one week before the Super Bowl). At the meeting, we will approve the Slate of Officers and Team members. The slate is shown inside this newsletter. We can use more volunteers, so just let me know of your interest and we will include you. The current bylaws state that a person can serve only two terms on the same Board, or as we have been calling it, Team. We have found that we have a very small number of people in our church family that are willing, or in most cases able, to serve in such a commitment. That is why the proposed bylaws remove the term limit. We are blessed that the majority of persons serving in 2021 have stepped up to serve an additional term or complete their two year term. A few people have been willing to move from one Team or position to another. Betsy is willing to move from Vice Moderator to Moderator, Kay agreed to move from Financial Secretary to the Vice Moderator position. Both of these ladies have been with this church for many years and I look forward to their leadership.

We also need to vote our acceptance of the proposed Bylaws. Co-chairs Mark Wolters and Kathy Roman did an excellent job guiding Ann Condra and myself through the existing bylaws. We worked together finding fresher language, reorganizing sections for increased clarity, and incorporating new ideas. The link to view the draft of the proposed changes has been sent in the weekly Email Blasts and is in this and December's Newsletter. Nancy can print a copy if you contact her. On Sunday, January 16, at 11:30am, we will hold an in-person gathering with those interested in asking questions and getting clarification. The Constitution and Bylaws are living documents that require frequent review and updating. The last amendments to the document were in 2015.

Council, at its December meeting, approved the 2022 Budget for presentation to the Members. Bill Waldorf has worked hard to prepare the budget and many of the items remain the same as 2021, and in some cases the same as 2020. As has been the case in prior years, the income section always includes "Draw from Reserve Funds." We hope and pray that sufficient contributions will be made to mitigate a need for drawing from these funds and, until the last of the contributions arrive in January for the previous year, we cannot say for sure the amount that will be needed. Our building insurance premium has increased 15%. Because we had no claims in 2021 we avoided the 35% hike experienced by many of our sister churches. Each Team prepares their own budget for inclusion. They are careful with their funds and utilize restricted funds as appropriate. We were blessed this year to have received a federal loan, due to COVID-19, to help cover salaries. We do not have to repay the loan, as it was forgiven.

Sorry this month is more business than pleasure, but it is important to share with you information pertaining to the Annual Meeting.

"Now I pray that God, who gives love and peace, will be with you." 2 Corinthians 13:11
Merilee Daugherty, Moderator

**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)**

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

PASTOR'S ARTICLE, January 2022

Happy New Year, everyone! Here we go, 2022! Hoping it's *way* brighter and more life, love, and joy-filled than the previous couple of years have been! Our theme for January/Epiphany 2022 is "*Learning to Be the Light!*" We celebrate Christ's birth, baptism, and beginning of his ministry, as the "Light of the World." And remember that he told us, "*You are the Light of the World!*"

So join us each week to explore the scriptures, music, and faith journey together, learning to be the light, and looking for opportunities to be the light in others' lives. Here, below, I share a story about a few local folks who chose to "be the light" and literally change the life of a young man. *Thank you!* to all who were a part of this beautiful story and helped to create this incredible smile! Blessings in the Light, Rebecca

"Learning to Be the Light!"

So I build a city on a hill...And I light a candle on the sill
Knowing you'll be always knocking at the door
Oh God I just want to love on everyone
All I have is yours to give so let the people come
It's so much brighter living in your world
Savior what you did for me
You gave me something I want everyone to see
When we stumble and it all goes wrong
Only you can make it right
So I say....."I'm learning to be the light!"

Brothers Michael and Marcus Hatfield were a part of CUCC's and CPC's music a few years ago. Generous CUCC folks donated to the Fund for Michael to have dental and orthodontic work and it changed his life! Here are the before and after pictures and Michael's words of thanks.



From Michael Hatfield:

I finally got that metal out of my mouth! Only a 2 1/2-year process total, consisting of getting 13 teeth pulled, an expander put in, a crown added to one tooth, and about 50 adjustments. So grateful to have come this far after struggling for years with my self-image. It feels so good to smile confidently and welcome in friends & strangers lovingly outside of the shell I've been living in. I feel blessed and can't thank those of you enough who have supported me & donated funds to make this happen. This is a new beginning for me, good things are on the way!!

(Big shoutout to Dr. Poremba & his staff! If you are in the Buena Vista/Salida area, I would highly recommend them.) #bracefacenomore

CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

PAUL DORFMEISTER NEWS

"I got another 6 month extension till June. See everybody in April!"

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!

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 \$6/month, you 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 Thursday. *The program is available to those outside of CUCC, so let your friends know that they can also sign up for \$6/month.*

PLEASE - If you talk to someone who is interested in signing up, have them contact the office. It's important that Nancy gets contact information from them and goes over the do's and don'ts. Thank you!

Contact Nancy in the office to sign up: 395-2544, office.bvcucc@gmail.com. Make checks to CUCC; "recycling" in the memo line.

NOTE: *The recycling fee has been reduced from \$8/month to \$6/month starting January 2022. If you have paid in advance, the \$2/month difference will be factored in to what you owe when you pay again.*

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;
Columbine Manor, Rm. C-3
530 W 16th St., Salida, CO 81201

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, Rm. 133
601 Horizon Pl.
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Marcille Drake (970) 209-9652
c/o Tom Drake
2809 Covington Way, Montrose, CO 81401

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

January 3—Ann Condra
January 3—Bridgett Tucker
January 4—Billie Branch
January 4—Cameron Wolters
January 5—Carl Hansen
January 5—Delmar Smith
January 10—Dorothy Coy
January 13—Nan Bohe
January 16—Vivian York
January 19—Jean Venard
January 27—Elvin Benton
January 28—Marilyn Frykholm
January 29—Jean Ferguson
January 31—Kay Allinger
January 31—Clarke Poos

ANNIVERSARIES

January 7—Frazer & Kaylynne Pomfret
January 16—Matthew & Donna Maloney



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
Kaylynne Pomfret—Healing
Frank Tooze (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Cathy Surgenor (friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
Sandi Van Ausdal (friend of Helen & Bowie Duncan)—Healing
Ron Hassel—Healing
Joan Lawrence (friend of Rebecca & Clarke Poos)—Healing
Marcille Drake—Healing
Jean Buster—Healing



Slate of Officers and Team Members

To be elected

Continuing

Officers:

Moderator: Betsy Neas 2022-2023
Vice Moderator: Kay Allinger 2022-2023
Clerk: Debby Cason 2022-2023
Treasurer: Lloyd Martinez 2022-2023
Asst. Treasurer: Judy Hassell 2022-2023
Financial Secretary: Helen Duncan 2022-2023

Worship/Congregational Life Team:

Debby Cason 2022-2024 Linda Rak 2021-2023
Jenny Talbot 2021-2023 Janet Steiner 2021-2023
Merilee Daugherty 2022-2024

Outreach/Community and World Team:

Helen Duncan 2022-2024 Ellen Kely 2021-2023
Herb Daugherty 2022-2024
Avis Rutkowski 2022-2024

Finance and Budget:

Moderator Betsy Neas 2022-2023 ex-officio
Vice Moderator Kay Allinger 2022-2023 ex-officio
Treasurer Lloyd Martinez 2022-2023 ex-officio
Asst. Treasurer Judy Hassell 2022-2023 ex-officio
Bill Waldorf 2022-2023
Mark Wolters 2022-2023

Faith Education Team:

Donna Maloney 2022-2024
Ron Erickson 2022-2024
Bowie Duncan 2022-2024

Facilities/Caring for the Church Home Team:

Bowie Duncan 2021-2023
Ron Rak 2021-2023
Mark Wolters 2021-2023
Kathy Roman 2021-2023

Stewardship/Visioning Team:

Bill Waldorf 2022-2024
Ann Condra 2021-2023
Bob Stocker 2021-2023

"TOGETHER AGAIN"
Collegiate Peaks Chorale Concert
from December. 3, 2021

Did you miss it? Do you want to enjoy it again? Then click on the link or go to the address in the link and it's yours! <https://youtu.be/UJK-Sb9KXsk>



view from the Mountain

**“It’s Nice to Have Friends Who Go the Extra Mile”
The Winchester Sun—February 7 , 2006**



Often I write about going the extra mile, the knowing how to give of oneself past what is generally expected of us. I am blessed to have a few friends who continually go mile after mile beyond the extra mile, and I love them so much for such a gift. I also have a husband and three children who always forget there is even a line beyond which they go for me, which humbles me. But there are two examples of this in my recent life that I need to tell you about.

One happened the day of the memorial service for my mother. I was having a huge problem with an overwhelming sadness as I began to realize my life on earth would, from that day on, be lived without her presence. I knew her spirit would never leave me, but that didn’t stop the ache of losing my mother. I was to speak at the service and I just wasn’t sure I could focus enough to bring my thoughts out in any kind of order. All I really wanted to do was to crawl into bed and pull the covers up over my head and stay in the darkness. It was easily the saddest day of my life.

I started walking from the apartment we occupied on the Abbey Delray campus to the auditorium where the service was to be held. It was too early for everyone else to go, so I started walking alone, which I thought I wanted. However, in the doing of that, it only magnified my feeling of aloneness, and I thought I would simply fall to the ground with the weight of it.

Just as I felt myself stumble forward, an amazing thing happened. Two people came up behind me, and one of them took my right hand and one took my left hand. It was my daughter, Katy, and my granddaughter, Seri Jean. Not one single word was spoken between us, but then, none was needed. They simply stepped up to be with me, and I will never forget the power of it. That’s going the extra mile.

Not long ago, my friend Julie called me. She was obviously upset and asked me to help her. Her beloved dog Brownie had collapsed as he tried to walk. One minute he was playing and the next minute he was down and his pupils were darting back and forth rapidly. He was obviously in physical danger. Julie had taken him to the Boonesboro Animal Clinic earlier, and though they couldn’t be sure what was going on, they gave him medicine, and she returned home with him. By late afternoon, Brownie was worsening rapidly, the weekend was here, and Julie was scared to death. I would’ve been also.

I called the clinic and learned that the vet, Lynn Skaggs, had gone home for the day. I called his house and his wife said that when he got home, she would send him back to the clinic.

Meanwhile, it was impossible to get Brownie into the car as he was dead weight. I called back to the clinic and asked a huge favor of my friend Lynn. I asked him to go to Julie’s house and that I would meet him there. Without one moment’s hesitation, he went there. It was definitely going the extra mile. The way he calmed Julie and her little girl, Sarah, by being quiet and calm himself was so wonderful. Actually, his very presence calmed them and he spent as much time as they needed from him as he explained what the two shots were for and what she could expect. And as he left, he hugged Julie and said he’d talk to her in the morning, which he did. Just his presence gave comfort to them and to me, just like what Katy and Seri Jean did for me.

Going the extra mile and knowing how and when to just ‘be’ for someone in pain are both such special gifts of love. You know, we are so blessed to have someone like Dr. Lynn Skaggs living among us, serving us and our pets with such over-the-top devotion. He is never too busy to listen and to help and he is never too busy to give hugs that give such silent comfort.

I wish there was a way to write all across the sky — “Thank you, Dr. Skaggs, thank you. Your kindness and your humanity have not gone unnoticed.”

The view from the hill is wondrous.

Jean Brody

WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

“THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S AND ALL THAT IS IN IT, THE WORLD AND THOSE WHO DWELL IN IT.”

Psalms 24:1

Looking ahead to the New Year of 2022, the women of the church will be joining together in mission, service projects, learning experiences, and creating beautiful handcrafted projects as they have throughout the years and giving funds to support the budget and upkeep of the Church, especially the church kitchen. All of these plans take time, planning, and a determination to work together in order to have them happen. I thank you *all* for your support this past year!

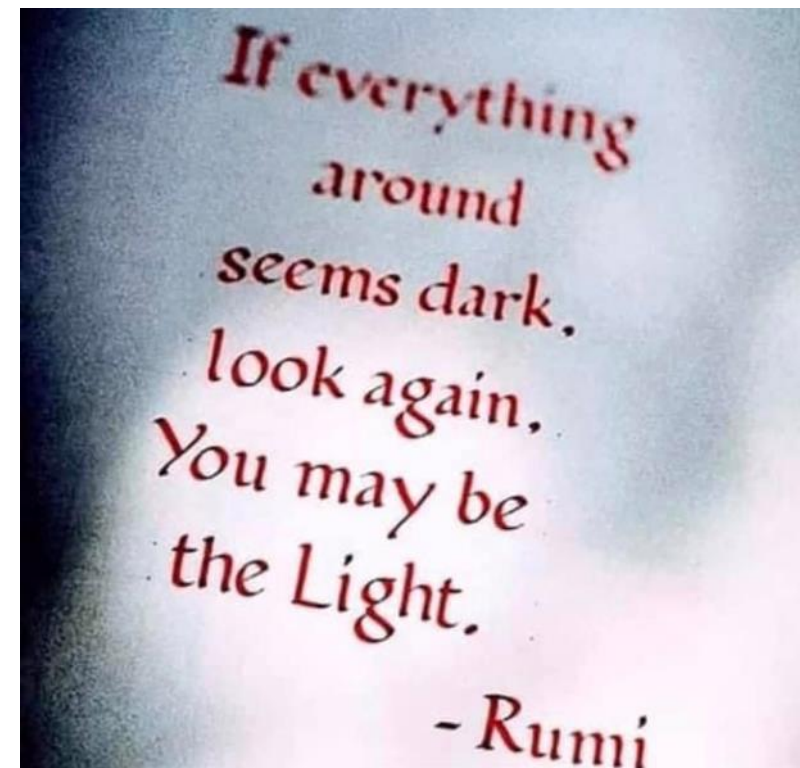
I have a whole new respect for the word flexibility! After three months of trying to regain the flexibility of my left knee joint following knee replacement surgery in August. I know many of you have also been on this journey of recovery from knee and shoulder replacements. It takes a lot of physical therapy, grit, and determination to return those joints to usefulness. The WMS’ journey to function as an organization takes flexibility also, as was demonstrated when new plans for replacing the large refrigerator in the kitchen had to be made. A previously given gift of \$1,000.00 for that project was redirected by the donor to the Backpack Program, reducing the current fund from \$1,900.00 to \$900.00. We agreed that the need for the refrigerator was crucial for the food safety when we serve both large and small hospitality events for the church and community. The other consideration was honoring the \$900.00 dollars which had been given for the project. Our commitment to the upkeep, care, safety and availability of a well- equipped kitchen is uncompromised. Karen Bowers, Norma Smith, the Facilities Team, and others have given loving care to the beauty and functioning of the kitchen space, and we will not stop now. Gifts have come forward to replace the \$1,000.00 that was withdrawn. The cost of the new refrigerator has not been determined, but more fund raising will be needed, so if you would like to give a gift to support this project, please do.

It is often said that that the ‘Heart of the Home’ is the kitchen, and it is my experience as a pastor’s wife, a church pastor, a campus minister that served meals to students, and a YWCA administrator of a women’s shelter that a well-equipped/functional kitchen is at the heart of a caring ministry to help others and to provide a ministry of hospitality.


In the year ahead, the WMS will focus on a theme of “Sacred Earth/Care of Creation.” If you would like to help with the plans for the New Year, please come to a planning meeting on January 20 at 1:00pm. Our first regular meeting will be Thursday, February 17, at 1:00 pm.

May you have a blessed New Year,
Marge Erickson, President

INSPIRATION CORNER



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

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.

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

APPRECIATIONS

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
“MORE THAN A GIFT”
Sunday, December 12



KUDOS COLUMN

Kudos to Janet, Judy, Allie, and the CUCC Clef Notes and Readers for the beautiful and moving Christmas Program! “More Than a Gift” was truly that! It was MORE than a gift to celebrate Christmas in community with powerful stories and songs.

Kudos to the Worship Team and Women’s Missionary Society and all their helpers for a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season at CUCC!

THANK YOU FROM NANCY

What generosity! I can’t thank you all enough for your wonderful surprise Christmas gift! And the card is so nice, too, with so many signatures and personal messages. You’re all so fantastic! What do I love about BV the most? The people. What do I love about working at CUCC the most? The people!

Office Nancy

VIVIAN YORK THANKS

Happy New Year! It is so nice to come back to church.

Thank you all for what you’ve done for me. You always kept in touch in Denver for this whole year.

Love you all.
Vivian



THANK YOU FROM THE POOS FAMILY

CUCC is always so supportive of our family each year and all year long! Thank you for the generous gifts at Christmas!

Rebecca, Clarke, & the Critters

THANK YOU FROM JUDY PHELPS, PIANIST

Dear CUCC Friends,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift! I feel so appreciated each Sunday with all of the special things you do and say throughout the year. It is a pleasure to worship with you and an honor to call you my church family. I am blessed.

Judy Phelps

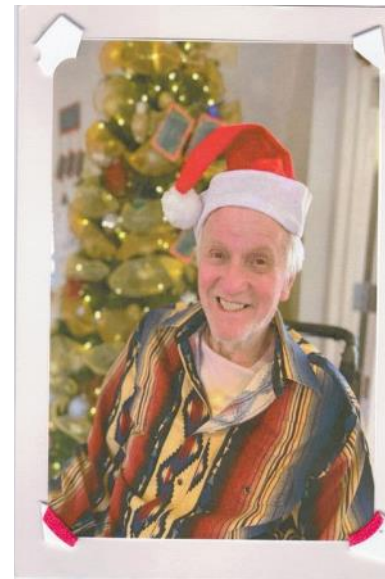
COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

January 2022

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 NEW YEAR'S DAY 9-10am AA-AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
2 10am Communion Sunday Indoor Worship 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter-FH	3 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 10-11:30am PEO -#7	4 7pm TELLS	5 6-7pm Clef Notes Practice -CH	6 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH	7 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE	8 9-10am AA-AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
9 10am Worship Clef Notes Sing Undecorate the Church 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter-FH	10 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH	11 10-11:30am Faith Ed. Team -AE 11am-12pm Worship Team -#7 4-5:30pm Outreach Team -AE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	12 10-12am Stew/Vis Team -AE 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH	13 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH	14 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE	15 9-10am AA-AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
16 10am Worship 11am Birthdays Celebration  11:30pm Bylaws Discussion-FH 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter-FH	17 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	19 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH 7pm Council	20 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 1-3pm WMS -FH 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH	21 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE	22 9-10am AA-AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
23 10am Worship 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter-FH	24 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH	25 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	26 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH	27 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 3:30-5:30pm HCFAA-FH	28 9:45am-12pm Strong Women-AE	29 9-10am AA-AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
30 10am Indoor Worship 4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter-FH	31 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE					



Roger Cason got into the Christmas spirit last month! :)

LINDA SWANSON GREETINGS

Congregational Church,
 Hope you have a *great* holiday in spite of it all. I am fully vaccinated but still very careful.
 Happy Holidays!
 Linda Swanson

RMC CONNECTIONS

MALLORY EVERHART INSTALLATION SERVICE

Sunday, February 20
 3:00pm

Installation Service for
 Rev. Mallory P. Everhart
 as Co-Pastor of Vista Grande UCC
 This will be a hybrid in-person/Zoom event.
 The Zoom link will be shared when available.

Vista Grande
 United Church of Christ
 5460 N Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO



CUCC IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

CUCC ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022

11:30am

Meeting format (in-person, hybrid, or Zoom)
 to be determined by January 5th.

REPORTS DUE TO THE OFFICE BY
JANUARY 5, 2022

PACKETS AVAILABLE
JANUARY 23, 2022

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 are available in the narthex.

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

MARCILLE DRAKE NEWS

Marcille fell and broke her arm in December and has been with her daughter Gaye through the holidays. She is now at her son Tom's:

Marcille Drake (970) 209-9652
 c/o Tom Drake
 2809 Covington Way, Montrose, CO 81401

NAN BOHE BACK AT COLUMBINE

Nan is very happy to be back "home" at Columbine Manor.

Nan Bohe
 Columbine Manor, Rm. C-3
 530 W 16th St.
 Salida, CO 81201

CUCC TEAM REPORTS

FAITHFUL GIVING HOW ARE WE DOING?

Giving for Nov. 4 weeks (apologies for omitting this total from the Dec. Newsletter): \$5,388.47, for an average of \$1,347.12 per week.

Giving for Dec. 4 weeks: \$12,552.66, for an average of \$3,138.17 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!****

Worship Team

We will be un-decorating the church on Sunday, January 9th after the worship service. We want to label the boxes and have pictures of the displays in the boxes to help next year's Hanging of the Greens. We also want to organize and simplify the decorations. Please stay and help with this project. Thank you!

Linda Rak, Chair

The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

Happy 2022 from the Faith Education Team! We have some ideas brewing for the new year, and we are always eager to get input from our community on topics or learning opportunities you would like to see happening. Contact team members Bowie Duncan, Ron Erickson or Donna Maloney with your suggestions!

We will meet again for Conversations that Matter ON Sunday, January 9, at 4:00pm. Check the weekly blast on whether we will meet in person or on Zoom, depending on the COVID guidelines. We will start the year by going inward, exploring *How Not to be Afraid* by Gareth Higgins. You can purchase the book at the usual places or we will be sharing some interviews or podcasts to get the gist of his message. See the weekly blast or sign up for the Conversation email for updates.

Molly and Marge will be leading a Thursday group starting in February; more details will come.

Donna Maloney, Chair

Outreach/Community & World Team News —January greetings!

!SHOWER MINISTRY! OUR NEW PROJECT! PLEASE SUPPORT!

Beginning in mid-January, CUCC will provide free showers in our facility.

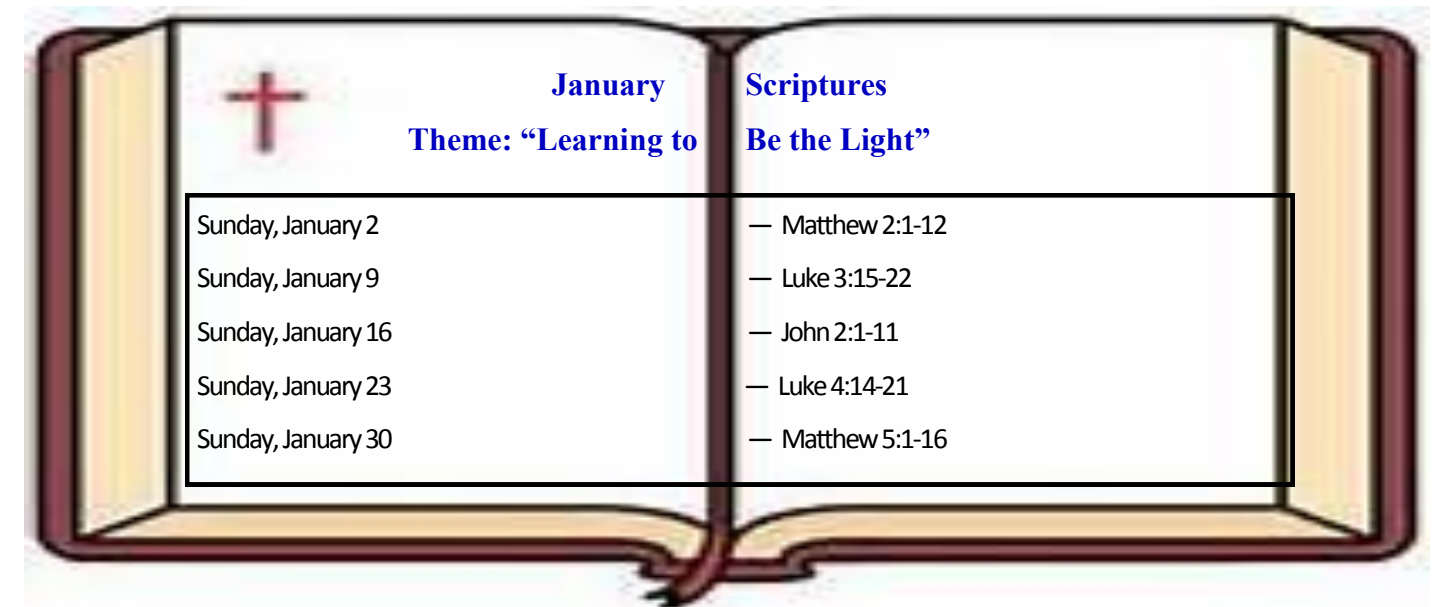
Fridays from 12noon-2:00pm, our shower facilities will be made available to those experiencing homelessness. Two monitors, one for women and one for men, will be available in the Sunday School wing. You can help by donating clean towels, wash cloths, soap, shampoo/conditioner. Please place these in the box in the narthex. Also, please sign up to serve as a monitor. Our initial getting organized meeting is Tuesday, January 11, at 4:00pm in the AE room. Come join us if you'd like to help in any way.

Backpack Program at CUCC: look for an article in the Chaffee County Times about this essential community service. We always can use volunteer packers on Thursdays at 9:00am, plus continuing financial support. Thank you!

Madres e Hijos: the Team has signed CUCC up as a member for 2022. This is a 501(c)3 organization in BV founded by Laurie Benson to help immigrant communities on the border. Visit madresehijos.org to learn more.

Helen Duncan, 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

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH!

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

CUCC Council Minutes - December 15, 2021

Present: Moderator Merilee Daugherty, Vice Moderator Betsy Neas, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Helen Duncan, Marge Erickson, Ron Erickson, Donna Maloney, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bill Waldorf. The meeting was held over Zoom.

Welcome, Call to Order and Opening Prayer 7:08pm by Merilee.

General Business & Reports

Minutes of the November 17 Council Meeting were approved as published in the December Newsletter.

Clerk’s Report: Ron Rak noted no changes in the congregation since the November meeting.

Moderator’s Report: Merilee Daugherty said that the Slate of Teams and Officers for 2022 is mostly filled, with only a few openings remaining. Staff evaluations for Judy Phelps, Nancy Best, and Sean Haver are complete and satisfactory.

Continuing Business

Bylaws: Merilee welcomed anyone who has questions on the suggested changes to call her to discuss in person prior to the January Council Meeting. Packets with proposed changes of the bylaws are available in the narthex. Marge Erickson noted that there was no requirement to use Roberts Rules of Order for meetings and asked we drop them. Rebecca said that the UCC Rocky Mountain Conference views Roberts Rules as archaic, awkward, and cumbersome, and prefers a consensus model—the greater will of the group—to guide meeting conduct.

Budget for 2022: Bill Waldorf and Merilee reviewed major cost increases for 2022, which include only a modest 15% increase in property insurance since we made no claims in 2021; a \$2/hour pay increase for Nancy Best, Office Communications Administrator; an increased Faith Education Team budget to better support the team’s plans for 2022. Bill made a motion to approve the proposed budget/seconded by Betsy Neas.

In floor discussion, bonuses for staff were discussed, noting that bonuses are not included in the budget. Marge, Donna, and Rebecca suggested a bonus for the Office Administrator, since she did an exemplary job in preparing for her extra 4-week summer vacation, for which she was not paid, thus saving the church that salary. Bill suggested an alternate solution in consideration of an anticipated 2021 budget deficit. We could solicit gifts of appreciation from the congregation. These, however, are only tax-free to the donor if given to the church, with proper record, and not cash. Rebecca also informed the Council that for 2021 there is a one-time COVID disaster relief Bonus Program that would be tax-free to staff/recipient, unlike regular bonuses. Betsy offered to prepare a card and envelope to collect a holiday gift for the OCA. Other personal gifts can be given directly to the staff via the office, as always.

With no further discussion, Council voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Proposed Budget, to be presented for a Final Vote at the Annual Congregational Meeting, February 6, 2022.

Where are we as a church, where are we going? Merilee noted that our congregation is diminished in size, something we discussed at our October meeting. There is concern regarding filling of openings on Teams and in leadership. As a Council and throughout the Congregation in all settings, we will continue to discuss our Mission, Vision and Values—where and who we are and where and who we want to be.

Shower Ministry: Betsy suggested a new community outreach modeled after a Salida Methodist church program: a Shower Ministry, to improve the plight of people experiencing homelessness. In her words, “One thing that makes a person feel really human is a shower.” Council referred to a prepared document outlining the program. She felt that we have the facilities, costs are minimal, and this offers a “hands-on” ministry to the congregation which may appeal to many who feel limited in outreach due to the COVID situation. She suggested a pilot program for three months starting in January. Discussion suggested starting in the spring, because more homeless will be in town and there will be a greater need. Bill suggested that we can gain respect in the community by advertising it and in local conversations. Rebecca offered that many people may relish participating in something like this since it’s hands-on with a limited time commitment. Council asked the Outreach Team to go ahead with implementing this in mid-January.

Team Reports

The floor was opened for questions for team representatives.

Women’s Missionary Society: Marge Erickson announced the next group meeting is December 16, with the program being a discussion of our heritage. Nominations for next year’s officers will be taken. She also suggested a special offering for the recent Kentucky tornado disaster be mentioned in church and in the newsletter.

New Business

The Slate of Teams and Officers for 2022 was presented. All Officer positions were filled and all teams had enough persons to continue. All teams could use a person or two. Term limits were noted as being eliminated for team members in the new bylaws; Merilee will note this in the January newsletter. Helen indicated that she and Bob Stocker were discussing combining the Outreach and Stewardship/Visioning teams. Bill was of the opinion that their functions were really quite different and that

should be considered. Helen also noted that the Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee is not listed on the slate, since those members are not elected, but the Newsletter always includes a list of members and possibly an informational piece about the PCRC.

Pastor’s Report: Rebecca expressed her joy in successfully completing the annual staff evaluations, which were positive and supportive. She was also encouraged by a couple of new contacts who expressed interest in visiting the church soon. She recently completed a 12-week (2-hour-weekly) online-by-Zoom Methodist course on Family Systems, which was great education on conflict management and new ideas on communicating with people. Christmas caroling to selected homes is planned for Sunday, December 19 at 4:00pm, with chicken cacciatore and cookies for the singers at Betsy’s afterwards. Rebecca was especially glad to see Norma, Vivian, and Warren at recent Sunday services, and pleased that Nan Bohe was coming “home” to Columbine Manor this month.

Adjournment: Meeting closed with Rebecca mentioning prayer concerns, followed by a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Upcoming Events

January NL information is due ASAP the week of 12/19/2021.

January 5 - Annual Report information due

February 6 is the next Congregational Annual Meeting.

March 2 - Ash Wednesday

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)