

***Congregational  
United Church of Christ***  
***Sunday Worship Schedule***  
***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](mailto:office.bvcucc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.bvcucc.org](http://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  
**February 2022**



## MODERATOR'S MOMENT

So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu, au revoir, adios, arrivederci, adeus, sayonara, do suidaniya, annyeong, totsien, namaste, slan. All of the above are goodbye in another language. As I end my year as your Moderator, I have to say it was a good year. You are all a blessing to this Christian body and I appreciate you all so much. Be assured (or very afraid), I am not completely going away. I have decided to join the Worship Team.

I know I am leaving this family in the very capable hands of Betsy Neas and Kay Allinger. They both bring a lot to their respective positions of Moderator and Vice Moderator. They will pick up the reins from me and find their own ways to guide and lead us all. No two moderators will lead in the same way; each person's personality, background, education, and experiences form their particular leadership style.

The new Council will decide the areas in which they will focus this year. Extravagant Welcome, Mission, and Education may give way to one or more new ideas, or may continue to be a focus. Exciting new ministries, such as the Shower Ministry, will be tried as we continue to serve the community. We will continue to reach out through our Faith Education offerings, which allow the sharing of ideas in areas of today's topical subjects.

I am looking forward to 2022 and still pray that we can reunited for worship and fellowship sooner rather than later. Until then, hang on to God and one another.

God Bless,  
Merilee Daugherty

I was asked to write for this Newsletter as Moderator-elect. First let's thank Merilee for all her good, hard work as Moderator last year. She did an exceptional job putting so much in order, which really helps us. Also, whenever she saw something that just needed to be done, she did it. Believe me, she's a hard act to follow.

This year we will continue working with our mission statement, "As followers of Jesus, we are committed to exploring together Jesus' teachings, his actions, and his justice, to better love, respect, and welcome all people." There is an additional part to that statement that clarifies it. It says that through extravagant welcome of ALL people, education of the congregation and community, as well as our church missions, we will work to fulfill that commitment.

I am planning on explaining more fully, diving more deeply into our mission statement commitment in future issues. I might ask you what it means to you and see if you have any ideas of how we can draw closer to our lofty goals.

Betsy Neas

**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, February 2022

Happy February, already! Our theme for Epiphany (the Liturgical Season between Christmas and Lent) 2022 continues: “Learning to Be the Light!” We celebrate Jesus’ ministry—learning from his calling of the disciples to service, and his teaching and healing journey with all followers—then and now. Christ shows us how to carry out our calling when he declares, “*You* are the light of the World!”

As we round through January and into February, navigating these ever-changing waters with worship and gatherings in several formats, make pivotal decisions on our path forward as a Congregation, and install a new leadership body and Bylaws, I have to say, “I see the Light!” I am so excited about what I see and sense all around me in our church. I feel the Spirit moving in and among us and working through us to BE the Church and BE the Light in countless and awe-inspiring ways! Even in the midst of a pandemic, uncertain times that change by the day and “fragile financial footing.”

We truly have been “Learning to Be the Light” as we committed to be in this new year. Examples abound and surround us!

\*Backpack Ministry—grants and ever-increasing numbers of youth we are serving

\*Shower Ministry—starting February 4th! Grant applied for; facilities tested and upgraded; supplies collected and community notified—many hands on deck!

\*Madres E Hijos (see picture below)—a new global and local mission for CUCC to participate in

\*Increases in Giving Commitments—more people are giving donations, large and small, to CUCC in this new year. I am blown away by the generosity of Time, Talent & Treasure in this beloved community!

\*Feeding those experiencing homelessness and exploring how to do more

\*Sanctuary Audio & Recording System Makeover—better for hard of hearing, better for welcoming music from the wider community, better for our own music to be heard clearly and beautifully!

\*Conversations That Matter (CTM) Sundays at 4:00pm—continues to thrive and attract new people as we delve into deeply meaningful conversations exploring issues from a variety of perspectives

\*Caregiver Support Group—a much-needed ministry launching soon, offered by Lois Arndt

\*Molly Stuart & Marge Erickson leading a Lenten Journey Exploration starting soon!

\*Lenten Services & Soup Suppers starting March 2nd

\*Ideas bubbling up about how we can serve and support our local community even more than we already do with our building, grounds, and other resources

\*WMS moving strongly and creatively into the new year, exploring Care of Creation as a theme

\*Clef Notes getting together again and excited about singing in worship

\*Interactive sermons as we engage Scripture and our Faith meeting Life together more fully

It truly is Epiphany Season! I see the Light! We are Learning to BE the Light in profound and promising ways as a community. I hope you’ll join in with us—wherever you are this winter!

Blessings, Rebecca

My favorite Christmas present from Madres E Hijos. Check it out! You can make a difference in families’ lives, on either side of the border, with your support—[www.madresehijos.com](http://www.madresehijos.com).



## CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS MOVING TO QUARTERLY

The monthly 3rd Sunday birthdays celebration with cake during Coffee Hour has been cancelled for now due to COVID. Instead, we will celebrate the birthdays quarterly.

### 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](mailto:revbecca@icloud.com) or text/call: 719-252-6890.

Pastor’s Week:

Church Ministry Days: Sunday through Thursday

Family & Sabbath Days: Friday & Saturday

### BE IN THE KNOW!

- ◆ To receive the CUCC weekly email blast, contact the office at 719-395-2544 or email to [office.bvcucc@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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

February 1—Steve Allinger  
February 2—Bowie Duncan  
February 2—Charlotte Smith  
February 3—Merilee Daugherty  
February 8—Will Bullock  
February 12—Sharie Schofield  
February 16—Bill Waldorf  
February 20—Del Jones  
February 20—Rebecca Poos  
February 26—Mary Fons Colvin  
February 26—Bob Stocker  
February 27—Ken Rehborn  
February 28—Butch Ekin

ANNIVERSARIES

February 2—Steve & Kay Allinger  
February 14—Ellen & Bob Kely/Stocker



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  
Judy Phelps (CUCC pianist)—Healing  
Mary Simmons (Betsy Neas' daughter)—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

CHARLOTTE SMITH TURNS 100!

Wed., Feb. 2

Let's let her know we love her! She would appreciate cards (but no phone calls, please).

Charlotte Smith  
Morrison manor, Rm. 403  
9875 Morrison Rd.  
Lakewood, CO 80227





## view from the Mountain

**“Being a Pet Isn’t Always Safe”**  
**The Winchester Sun—May 2, 2006**



### As told by Aggie Cat

Part of my job of being a “pet,” a term I’m not entirely comfortable with, is to protect my person. If I were a dog, it would be easier. I mean, I might not have to do more than bark like crazy to warn Jean of danger. Even if I had to chase away or bite, dogs have an edge on us felines, as hard as that is to admit.

Therefore, I have waited 13 years for my “moment,” and it came last week! Let me tell you about that morning, even though it is not an easy story to share, and it most certainly did not end the way I’d intended.

Jean was sitting alone quietly on our porch drinking her coffee. I was lying just inside the living room, and the glass doors to the porch were open. I must’ve dozed a bit, but when I opened my eyes, she was no longer alone. This hideous, three-foot iguana had crawled up the trellis on the porch front and was just sitting there in all his warty ugliness, looking at Jean.

“Uh-oh,” I said, sitting up, fully alert. I looked into his beady little eyes and saw nothing friendly there. The very thought of confronting such a creature, much less touching him, made my stomach turn over, but this was not about me. I knew I had to save Jean. Slowly I stood up, feeling my body and tail begin to puff up. By the time I stepped onto the porch, I had to actually walk sort of crab-like, I was so big. I guess this is why the iguana changed his focus from Jean to me, which uncorked my adrenaline to race through every part of my beautiful and brave being. Now, both Jean and I were in danger, so without a backward glance, I raced forward.

Rising to what I think a feline superwoman must look like, I charged out the door and headed straight for El Ugly. I locked eyes with him as I started collecting spit in my mouth. Suddenly, Jean came out of her meditative state just as I passed by her chair and she yelled, “Aggie, no!” But it was too late.

When I got within six inches of him, I reared up on my two hind legs and let out a spit to make any cat proud. Do you know what that creature did? He reared up on his two hind legs and started spitting at moi! Flailing his long, pointy talons in my face made me suddenly aware that he was far more equipped to fight than I, and my mind raced to know what to do next. Jean saved the day, my face, and most of all, my pride, in a way. She’s no dumbbell. She scooped me up and away from the lethal claws, but then she literally threw me through the door into the living room, all the time screeching, “Are you nuts, Aggie? You wanna get killed?”

I was momentarily horrified, but infinitely relieved. I did my job the best I could and nobody got hurt. When she calmed down and shooed the iguana off the porch, she did apologize for tossing me like a football, but then she thanked me for trying to protect her, which was pretty nice.

You know, being a pet to a human isn’t always about lying in the warm sunshine and watching the birds fly by. Sometimes we have to heed the call to protect him or her, just as I did and just as they do for us. Anyway, it makes a feline feel right proud.

The view from the hill is wondrous.

*Jean Brody*

### WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Quote from Love is the Way” by Bishop Michael Curry:

“When God, who is love, becomes our spiritual center of gravity, and love our moral compass, we live differently, regardless of what the world around us does. The world changes for the better, one life at a time. So don’t give up on love. Listen to it. Trust it. Give into it. Obey it. Love can help and heal, when nothing else can!”

These words give me hope for the New Year and a reason to make plans and look forward to better days, bringing us together to spread the Good News of God’s great love for this Earth and all God’s creatures.

In December we decided to meet every other month on Thursdays. Times will vary from 12:00pm-2:00pm lunches to 1:00pm-3:00pm dessert gatherings, to visiting ministry sites such as LaPuente in Alamosa and surrounding areas. The 2022 WMS meetings are as follows:

February 24, April 28, June 23 - Picnic, August 25, October 27, December 8

On February 24 we will meet at 1:00pm to discuss and make decisions about a 2022 Bazaar. Please plan to come or talk with Linda, Kay, or me about your ideas and ways you would like to help. The Bazaar creates support for many community and Rocky Mountain Mission projects, giving hope and essential services, and is a way of sharing concern and love.

Marge Erickson, President

### BETTY GWYNN CELEBRATED IN THE CHAFFEE COUNTY TIMES

Betty Gwynn celebrated her 100th birthday with her family on December 26, 2021. She was born in Fremont, Nebraska, and her parents moved the family to Wyoming when she was four years old. Upon graduating from high school in Thermopolis, Wyoming, she attended Beth-El Nursing College in Colorado Springs from 1940-1943 and joined the US Army Nurse Corp in 1943.

In April, 1944, she was stationed in England at a field hospital established to treat the casualties from D-Day. Betty remembers sitting on the steps of Hut #124 where they lived and watching the airplanes, each one pulling a glider, go over at tree top level on D-Day. The nurses did not know what was happening

except for short news releases posted on their bulletin board. After VE Day, she was sent to Paris to give vaccines to troops being sent to the war in the Pacific. While there, she had the opportunity to tour France, and the highlights for her included seeing the Folies Bergère, the French Riviera and Notre Dame. She achieved the rank of 1st Lieutenant and outranked her husband Norton, who stood at attention and saluted her every morning.

Nort and Betty, high school sweethearts, were married on May 6, 1946. They were married 71 years. Norton was going to make a career out of the Navy until he contracted tuberculosis. After his discharge, he attended pharmacy school at CU. Betty took care of their children and worked as a nurse at hospitals in Denver and Boulder.


After he graduated in 1954, Norton, Betty and their children moved to Salida where he worked for Salida Drug and Betty worked at the hospital. Nort was recruited by the editor of the BV paper to take over the drugstore in Buena Vista. In 1958, Betty and Nort moved their family to Buena Vista and established Gwynn’s Pharmacy on Main Street. Betty kept the books and helped Norton in the store. The rest of their lives they’ve lived in Buena Vista.

Betty continued her career as a nurse, working for Columbine Nursing Home and the hospital in Leadville. She also worked in the library at the BV High School and one year drove a school bus. She belongs to Eastern Star, the Gas Creek Home Demonstration Club, and the Monarch Quilters. She has been a member of Congregational United Church of Christ since her move to Buena Vista. She remembers that the church was in the little brick building behind Bev’s Stitchery at that time.

Betty has four children, Steve, Nancy, Ken and David, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and still lives in her Buena Vista home with her son Ken and his wife Judy.




CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



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

The group is reading  
“Sky Windows” by Kathy Keidel.

We share life, faith, family stories, support, fun and  
humor—please join us!  
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.
- Checks should be taken directly to the mission on Tues., Wed., or  
Fridays, 11:00am - 2:00pm, or call Helen Duncan at 395-5768.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**  
2nd & 4th Mondays, Feb. 14 –Apr. 25  
11:00am–12:00pm CUCC Rainbow Room (masks recommended)  
Are you or someone you know in a caregiving role? Join with others  
for support, conversation, ideas, and insights. Led by Lois Arndt, an  
experienced therapist and educator new to BV and CUCC and a  
wonderful human being!

Contact Lois to learn more & sign-up: [arndtjlc@gmail.com](mailto:arndtjlc@gmail.com) or  
719-322-4124.

**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](http://www.chaffeerresources.com).

RMC CONNECTIONS—LA FORET

**SCHOOL OF EARTH & SOUL RETREAT**  
with John Philip Newell, founder of the School of Earth & Soul (formerly the School of Celtic Consciousness)  
May 6-8—click [here](#) for more information and to register (or go to [laforet.org/events](http://laforet.org/events)).  
Reawakening awareness of the sacred in all things through the recovery of Celtic wisdom  
and translating this awareness into compassionate action and justice.

For the complete list of 2022 La Foret retreats and camps, see the flyer on the bulletin board or click [here](#) or go to [laforet.org/events](http://laforet.org/events).

APPRECIATIONS



**KUDOS KOLUMN**

\*Kudos to the amazing, generous, and brilliant “Tech Team” at  
CUCC! Our Sanctuary is getting an audio makeover to the benefit  
of all—stay “tuned”—literally!

\*Kudos to all outgoing and incoming “blessed servants of the  
Church”—and all moving into new roles and ministries too!

**THANK YOU FROM OUR COMPUTER GEEKS**

(Joe & Kimmie Randall trouble-shoot the office computer, Rebecca's computers, and  
the church wifi system—and at no cost to the church!!!)

Dear BVCUCC,  
Thank you so much for your very generous gift card to the Little Red Hen [bakery  
in Salida]. You know that gift will bless us so very much. It is an honor to be able to  
serve you and it brings great joy to our hearts in doing so. Thank you for continuing  
to spread the love of the Lord to those around you. May His blessings continue to  
reign over the staff, the body, and the ministries that you have.

With all our love & gratitude,  
Joe, Kimmie, & Lola (the bird)

**THANKS FROM HCFAA**

Thank you for letting us rehearse for  
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at your church!

High Country Fine Arts Association

**HABITAT IS GRATEFUL**

Thank you! Your recent gift of \$600 means you understand how  
important affordable housing is to our community. Without you,  
we could not fulfill our mission to provide decent, affordable  
housing to deserving families in Chaffee County. We and those  
we serve sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Jill Nall, Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity

**CHAFFEE COUNTY HOSPITALITY THANKS CUCC**

Thank you for your generous donation of \$100. Presently we are housing and feeding 10-12 men and 3-6 women each night at  
the emergency winter shelters. We also continue to house families and people with various special needs in motels, typically  
renting 1-3 rooms each night. We also provided tents, sleeping bags, heaters and propane to folks choosing to stay unsheltered.  
All of this is made possible through your generous donation. We greatly appreciate your continued support of CCH as we try  
to provide shelter for neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Abbott, Board President



# February 2022

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat                                      |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| AE=Adult Ed. Rm.<br>CH=Choir Room<br>D=Drama Room<br>FH=Fellowship Hall<br>K=Kitchen<br>S=Sanctuary<br>PO=Pastor's Office<br>RR-Rainbow Room |  | 1<br><br>6:30-8pm<br>Scouts-FH<br>7pm TELLS   | 2<br>3-4pm Optimist Set-up-FH<br><br>6-7pm Clef Notes Practice -CH | 3<br>6:45-7:30am Optimist Youth Appreciation Breakfast-S<br>9-9:30am Backpacks-FH | 4<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE<br>12-2pm Shower Ministry-SS wing  | 5<br>9-10am AA-AE<br>9-10am Al-Anon -#7  |
| 6<br>10am Communion Worship<br>11:30am Annual Meeting -In-Person!<br><br>4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -Zoom                            | 7<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE  | 8<br>10-11:30am Faith Ed. Team -AE<br>11am-12pm Worship Team -#7<br><br>4-5:30pm Outreach Team -AE<br>6:30-8pm Scouts-FH<br>7pm TELLS | 9<br>10-12am Stew/Vis Team -AE                                     | 10<br>9-9:30am Backpacks-FH   | 11<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE<br>12-2pm Shower Ministry-SS wing | 12<br>9-10am AA-AE<br>9-10am Al-Anon -#7 |
| 13<br>10am Worship<br>Clef Notes Sing<br><br>4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -Zoom  | 14<br>9am-4:30pm Monarch Quilters-FH, K<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE<br>11am-12pm Caregiver Support Group -RR | 15<br>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br><br>6:30-8pm Scouts-FH<br>7pm TELLS  | 16<br><br>7pm Council  | 17<br>9-9:30am Backpacks-FH   | 18<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE<br>12-2pm Shower Ministry-SS wing | 19<br>9-10am AA-AE<br>9-10am Al-Anon -#7 |
| 20<br>10am Worship<br><br>4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -Zoom   | 21<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE   | 22<br><br>6:30-8pm Scouts-FH<br>7pm TELLS   | 23   | 24<br>9-9:30am Backpacks-FH<br><br>1-3pm WMS -FH                                  | 25<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE<br>12-2pm Shower Ministry-SS wing | 26<br>9-10am AA-AE<br>9-10am Al-Anon -#7 |
| 27<br>10am Worship<br><br>4-5:30pm Conversations That Matter -Zoom   | 28<br>9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE<br>11am-12pm Caregiver Support Group -RR                                      |   |  |   |  |  |



## BACKPACK PROGRAM ARTICLE FROM THE CHAFFEE COUNTY TIMES—Dec. 22, 2021

One of Buena Vista’s longest running food assistance programs is seeking additional volunteers and funding support. The Backpack food program serves between 60 and 75 youth every week and has been in operation for over a decade.

“We do breakfast, lunch and dinner for two days, Saturday and Sunday,” said program coordinator Ken Rehborn. “That’s the point of this, so that they’re not hungry at the weekend.” Rehborn said he took over the program 7 years ago when the previous coordinator moved away.

On Thursday morning, Dec. 16, a half dozen or so junior Optimist Club members from Chaffee County High School gathered with a handful of adult volunteers to pack bags from the program’s storage pantry at Congregational United Church of Christ.

“We store all the food here and this is where the packing is done. But it’s not really a religious project. It’s sort of a community thing,” said Helen Duncan, the program’s outreach committee chairwoman. The program relies primarily on volunteer efforts and donations for operations and funding, she said. “This year I applied for a grant through the Chaffee County Community Foundation and got \$2,000. But I hope we don’t have to apply for grants every year,” said Duncan.

Funding comes from private donors and local organizations, such as New Bee’s Thrift Store, Monarch Quilters, and several organizations working through Grace Church. A self-contained program that runs strictly on volunteer labor and community donations avoids red tape that often comes part and parcel with food assistance programs.

“It’s really quite open. They used to have a signup sheet where you had to list your income and your phone number and your name. I said you know what? Let’s just feed kids. So I got away from all that,” said Rehborn. “You need 70 meals? I’ll get the groceries for two weeks for 70 meals. And then I just put in for reimbursement.”

School teachers and staff help Rehborn adjust the number of meals prepared. He coordinates with Winchell and others at the beginning of each school year to plan and regularly thereafter to adjust. Food is packed Thursday mornings and taken by CCHS Junior Optimists to CCHS and the Grove preschool, which doesn’t hold class sessions on Fridays. Adult volunteers deliver to the BV Boys & Girls Club on Friday. More volunteers are desired for food organizing and packing on Thursdays and donations are needed to ensure the program continues to operate.

“We take food donations, or prepared food items. Any monetary donations are always appreciated. The checks need to be made out to CUCC and memoed Backpack Program,” said Rehborn.

For more information on volunteering or donating to BV’s Backpack food program, contact Helen Duncan at 203-313-2845 or CUCC at 719-395-2544.

## CUCC IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL MEETING

**CUCC ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022  
11:30am  
in person! at CUCC**

**PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**  
**Click [here](#) for a digital copy.**

### 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 with changes marked.  
Click [here](#) for the proposed Bylaws as they will be voted on.

# CUCC TEAM REPORTS

## FAITHFUL GIVING HOW ARE WE DOING?

Giving for Jan. 4 weeks: \$7,801.58  
for an average of \$1,950.40 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

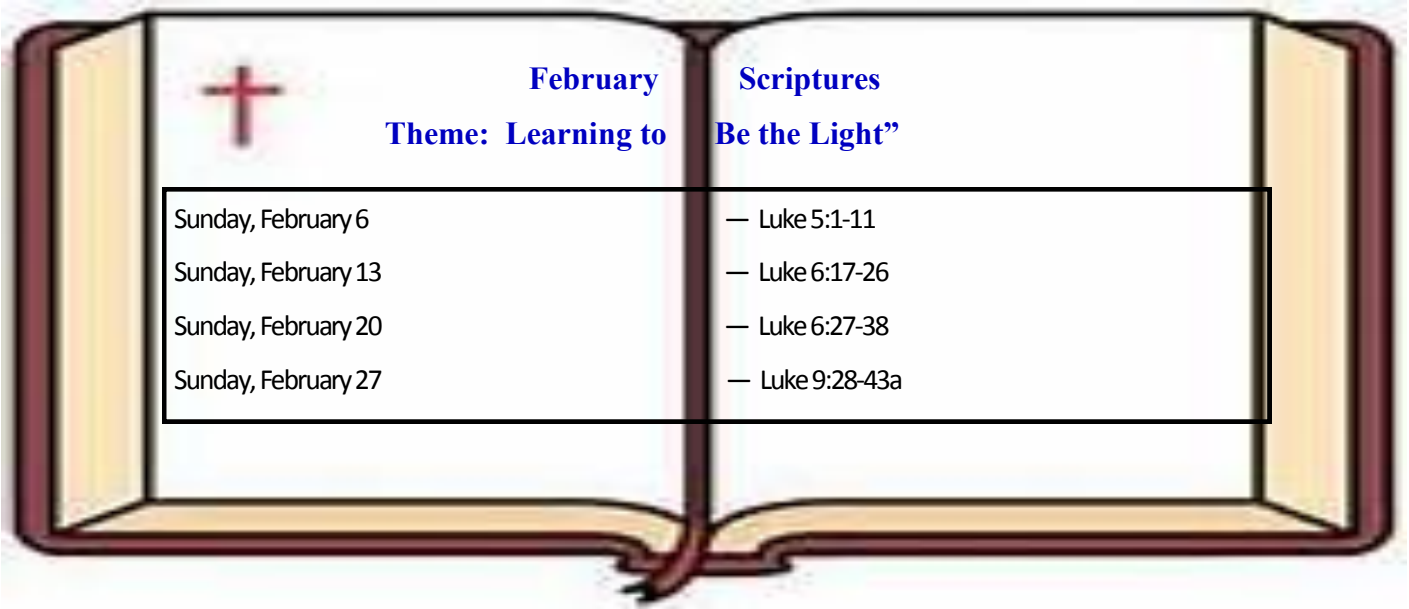
Merilee & Herb have taken the Christmas tree and decorations down. Ron and I have taken the large Christmas wreaths outside down and the one above the fireplace. We will eventually get all the decorations down.

I want to welcome Merilee to our Worship Team. We appreciate her volunteering to help.

March 2nd is Ash Wednesday and we will decide what the plan will be for celebrating it. Stay tuned!

Linda Rak, Chair

# PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



## The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

The team has been exploring how to let go of fear in our lives that often gets in the way of the love and peace we seek. We are exploring the work of Gareth Higgins, author of *How Not to be Afraid*, as well as our all-church read, *Love is the Way* by Bishop Michael Curry, and other wise souls.

Conversations That Matter wants to open the discussion on current events from a spiritual point of view. What is our journey? How can we write our own story going forward? These are questions we would like to explore and hope you can join us.

TELLS is also continuing weekly, providing support and interesting conversation. Their current book is by our own Kathy Keidel, *Sky Windows*.

Stay tuned for other educational and growth opportunities, and as always we would love to have your input on what you would like to see offered!

Donna Maloney, Chair

## FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

No major developments to report concerning the grounds and facilities. We continue to preform general maintenance, but as expected, it is slower this time of year. This spring, we will be revisiting/evaluating replacing the doors on the south side of the sanctuary. Speaking of spring, if you have an interest in gardening and would be interested in working in the church’s gardens, we would like to hear from you. It doesn’t have to be a set commitment—any amount of time donated is appreciated!

## Outreach/Community & World Team News—February greetings!

### SHOWER MINISTRY AT CUCC

As mentioned in the last newsletter and regular email blasts, CUCC will begin a shower ministry, serving men, women, and families in Chaffee County who are housing insecure or homeless. At our monthly meeting we heard a presentation from Mike Orrill who helped set up a shower ministry in Salida. It was most informative. He says we have a possibility for funding from a grant program.

**When:** starting February 4, Fridays, noon to 2:00pm

**Where:** the Sunday School wing, both men’s and women’s bathrooms and showers. Room 7 will be the hospitality/waiting room.

**Publicity:** posters at the library, grocery stores, New Bees, and laundromats, signs at CUCC entrances

**Resources:** Sol Vista, Chaffee County Hospitality Inc. (Mike Orrill’s org. helping the county homeless)

**Needed donations:** motel soap, shampoo, razors and shaving soap, nail clippers, brushes, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste. We could also use several hair dryers and cleaning spray, towels and wash cloths, and new underwear and socks for men, women, & children.

**Volunteers:** Two monitors per session, who can be members and friends of CUCC, Grace Church, other churches and community members. Please sign up for one Friday or more by contacting the CUCC office or Helen Duncan at 719-395-5768 or Betsy Neas at 719-966-9894.

Our enthusiastic start-up committee thanks you many times over!

Helen Duncan, Chair

## 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](https://tithe.ly).
4. DONATE through the CUCC website: [bvcucc.org](https://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](mailto:cucc.conversations@icloud.com).

## INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH!

Offer to pick them up!

Let’s gather together as a church family!

## 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



**CUCC COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**- January 19, 2022**

**Welcome and Opening Prayer: 7:10pm** Moderator Merilee Daugherty, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Helen Duncan, Marjorie Erickson, Judy Hassell, Ron Hassell, Donna Maloney, Betsy Neas, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bill Waldorf. Moderator Merilee Daugherty welcomed everyone and shared an opening prayer.

**General Business & Reports**

**Minutes** of the December 15, 2021 Council Meeting as published in the January Newsletter were approved.

**Clerk’s Report:** Ron Rak reported no change in the congregation since the December meeting. The 2021 End-of-Year Clerk’s Report showing all changes to the congregation will be published in the 2022 Annual Meeting report.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Bill Waldorf discussed updated changes to the proposed 2022 Budget. A few errors were noted by Council members in the proposed final copy which will be corrected before the Annual Meeting. Rebecca also suggested that the 2021 Original Budget numbers needed to be included to provide a better comparison with the proposed 2022 Budget and comprehensive overview for the congregation. Judy Hassell said the financial officers held a meeting recently for training and to go over all aspects of the finances and would continue to look at the accounts, processes, and budget lines in depth in the coming year. Judy moved/Helen seconded that the 2022 Budget after corrections be approved by Council. Motion passed.

**Moderator’s Report:** Merilee noted that all **Team annual reports** are ready for inclusion in the Annual Report. She asked Council for **guidance on how the Sunday worship** should be conducted in the near future considering the current county COVID virus situation. Consensus of several members was that we should resume in-person church services in three weeks (February 6) to offer the best sense of community relationship. Others preferred meeting sooner on January 30. Ron Rak suggested we prepare to offer higher protection face masks for those needing them to reduce risk and clearly note our concern and precautions in the weekly email blasts leading up to the 30th. It was agreed to resume in-person worship on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The church **Bylaws** final changes also need to be agreed upon before the Annual Meeting (see Nancy’s Friday January 14 email blast with attachments for the proposed changes and a separate explanation page). Editor’s note: Following the January 16 congregational discussion and January 19 Council meeting, the Bylaws were carefully revised one more time, incorporating the changes and questions from the discussions. They are now in every email blast and available in the narthex—bright orange cover!

**Team Reports**

**Outreach:** Helen Duncan updated Council on the proposed Shower Ministry for persons experiencing homelessness, a new recently suggested community outreach program. A meeting was held with Mike Orrill, co-chair of the Salida Housing Coalition and former pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Salida, which has had this ministry for several years. Study and preparations are well underway at CUCC, with an enthusiastic group of volunteers. A meeting with Sol Vista Health is planned next to learn about dealing with mental health situations that might arise. Possible grant money is available to support startups and will be pursued, although startup supply costs are expected to be minimal, anticipating volunteer donations, and CUCC has reserve funds for this type of community outreach. Scheduled start of the ministry is Friday, February 4.

**WMS:** Marge Erickson noted that WMS has been meeting in-person. A new Vice President for the year is being sought. They are planning programs around the theme of “Care of Creation,” including Celtic author John Philip Newell’s writings about 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic Julian of Norwich Celtic wisdom in his book *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul*.

**New Business**

Merilee encouraged teams to try and first use monies from their restricted funds rather than budgeted funds in the new year to reduce church expenses.

**The Annual Meeting** will be held in-person only, noting the consensus is that hybrid meetings which include online Zoom participants result in poor communication with the Zoom attendees due to audio issues. It was noted that we must have an updated list of congregation members available at the meeting to ensure that only members vote when required.

Church Officers: Treasurer (Lloyd Martinez), Assistant Treasurer (Judy Hassell), and Financial Secretary (Helen Duncan) are required to be approved by Council, mandated in the Bylaws. Merilee moved/Betsy seconded they be approved. Motion carried.

**Team names** for official inclusion in the bylaws was questioned. Helen suggested that shorter names seem to be remembered and work best in documents. It was agreed to use shorter names in the final published bylaws.

**Pastor’s Report**

Pastor Rebecca mentioned that supplies are already being donated for the Shower Ministry and are being stored in Room 8.

The sanctuary sound system renovation is well underway. She expects that the new capabilities will help increase use of the building by the community for different events as well as greatly enhance our congregation’s music quality and hearing capability in worship.

Local resident Sue Greiner is promoting a green environmental approach to the recently published Sangre de Cristo Electric anti-green-conservation vision for the future. Rates for lower energy users are apparently going up, while the costs for higher users is going down. This appears to be a near-term cost issue for the church energy use. Rebecca forwarded to Council members some background information so we can be informed as a church and co-op member.

BV’s Chaffee County High School’s students will be losing some support programs from the school system this year, with the sale of their building and reduction in budget/staff. Rebecca is particularly concerned about support for LGBTQ youth and mentoring support for at-risk students. Rebecca asked us to think about how our church can support these new needs in the near and distant future.

Local resident Lois Arndt and friend of CUCC is planning to offer a caregiver support group for those in the congregation and the wider community.

**Open Floor**

Marge asked the Facilities Team to look into replacement of the aging kitchen food cooler, which makes a lot of noise when operated. Ron Hassell noted the age of the motor and motor mounts may be the problem. Facilities will research to repair or replace. The WMS has been raising funds for several months for this new appliance.

**Prayer Concerns/Updates**

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

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

**Upcoming Events**

**Annual Meeting** is February 6, 2022, 11:30 a.m., following the Sunday service.

**Next regular Council Meeting** is February 16, 7:00pm

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

*As followers of Jesus, we are committed to exploring together Jesus’ teachings, his actions,  
and his justice, to better love, respect, and welcome all people. (CUCC’s Mission, Identity & Purpose)*

**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)*