

**Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**Sunday Worship Schedule  
In-Person 10:00am (MDT) & Zoom**

**YouTube at [CUCCBuenaVistaCO](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUCCBuenaVistaCO) (for previous services)**

Physical: 217 Crossman Ave.; Mailing: PO Box 610  
Buena Vista, CO 81211  
Office: 719-395-2544  
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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](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationalUCCBuenaVista)  
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# News and Views

Congregational United Church of Christ  
October 2022



## MODERATOR'S MOMENT

*Tell me,  
What is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life?  
- Mary Oliver*

They say that if you ask a third grade child, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and they have an answer, the possibilities of them having a "successful life" are highly probable. Not that they really become a fireman, nurse, or astronaut, but they have a sense that they are someone special.

We talked today in the "Elephant Group", commonly called Adult Sunday School, about what God is up to in our lives. I thought about how my life has unfolded. And how it still is unfolding.

I was about nine when I read a story about an early social worker and decided that's what I wanted to be. About that time, I became a Girl Scout and was exposed to many opportunities to serve the 'fringes' of society. I remember going to a state mental institution where I sat and listened to one of the patient's life story. Another time I taught blind children how to swim. I marveled at their courage jumping into the unknown. I found my interest and excitement was to serve people with special needs. That was my calling.

So as I aged, I became a special education teacher and really loved working with young children who had trouble learning. It seemed like many of them had a sixth sense when we would have discussions. They would go deeply into the subject beyond their age level. Sometimes I worked in disadvantaged neighborhoods and learned about the lives of the 'underserved' folks. I learned so much about their cultures.

However, the most challenging role that landed on my plate was raising a blended family through their teenage years. Hugh had three teenage girls and I had two! Five teenage girls at one time while I was still teaching was very difficult but I knew God was with me and my family all the time. Much of what I learned from our girls I was able to take with me, as I worked in an adolescent unit in a psychiatric hospital. Here the kids had challenges fitting in with their peers and families. Depression which led to running away from home, was the problem for many of them.

Later, Hugh and I moved to Buena Vista and new callings opened up for me. I started volunteering at the Ark-Valley Christian Mission and fell in love with the people who came there. As they entered, they would tell their "wild and precious" stories and I would listen. I still am touched by a man I met many years ago, who lived in his car while he underwent chemo treatments for his cancer. Yet he would come to the Mission to help. The faith and strength of those people always amaze me. So in looking back on my life I am very aware of how I was led to be a teacher and comforter to those with significant challenges. And how I grew in my spiritual journey through every "wild and precious" person I met.

So, how would you answer Mary Oliver's question? It might seem a little odd for folks at our stage of life but many of us may live another 20 years. Therefore, the question still remains. Jim Price, one of our former pastors, once said to me, "There is no mention of retirement in the Bible!"

Betsy Neas  
Moderator

**No matter who you are, no matter where you  
are on life's journey, you are welcome here at  
Congregational United Church of Christ  
in Buena Vista.**

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

Congregational United Church of Christ  
217 Crossman Ave.  
P.O. Box 610  
Buena Vista, CO 81211  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT CUCC!  
Every Sunday at 10:00am  
See you there!**

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE, October 2022

*"We begin to remember not just that you died, but that you lived –  
And that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget." (Naomi Shihab Nye)*

As many of us experienced, the pandemic interrupted our chances to remember, honor, grieve and celebrate the lives of loved ones. Memorial services were canceled or never happened "till a later time." That happened in our family, with the passing of Jean Brody, Clarke's beloved mom. Mema Jean passed during Covid – not from the virus, but during that difficult time of isolation and challenging medical care. We were allowed to gather around her ICU bed (in full PPE) by gracious medical staff, so she was not alone, but we've felt a sadness since November 2020 that we had never truly celebrated her life and brought closure and shared memories.

This August, thanks to our dear friends Scotty Stoughton and Javier Placer of Adrift Adventures/River Wondergrass, and a *bunch* of other amazing friends –longtime and new – we were able to fully celebrate her life in an incredible sacred experience.

After a lovely night of camping under the stars by the river, and a delicious breakfast and coffee and yoga on the beach, we loaded up the boats on Sunday morning, on the Green River, with plans in the making, and instruments quietly tucked aboard. Our dear friends from BV, Donna & Matthew Maloney and Syd and Russ Schnurr made sure to be in *our* boat that day, with cameras ready, and the church service commenced. Echo Canyon is a traditional stretch for a Silent Float and that was breath-taking in and of itself. We felt Spirit's presence in profound and powerful ways. And Jean's! The silence was "broken prayerfully" by our friends, Trout Steak Revival, coming around the bend singing and playing guitars, banjo, fiddle and bass.

Clarke rose in the boat and thanked everyone for coming (25 people in all!) to this profound memory moment that "Mom would have absolutely *loved!*" While Travis and the band tearfully serenaded with the beautiful song "*Last Chance*" (written for Travis' grandfather and loved by our family) Clarke and I leaned over the front of the boat and scattered Jean's ashes in the beautiful river. (Matthew lamented later that "butts" were all he got in the pictures, but I could hear Jean cackling in delight in a belly (and leg!) laugh, with the thought, as she heard the story of her big day.)

We continued to float down the river, crying, laughing and singing together, deeply moved and appreciating the beauty of the place, the congregation and our beloved Mema. The next thing we knew, a Great Blue Heron appeared on the beach, saw us come near, and then flew alongside us for several minutes! "Hi Mom!" we shouted in unison. Forevermore, Jean will be present to us when we spot a GBH. Forevermore, we will remember to "say all the words" before its too late, but never forget that the Veil is thin, and we still have time to share love, appreciation and memories, from our lips, hearts and eyes.

God is good! Friends are forever, and we will never forget this Celebration of Life and Love!

Blessings, Rebecca

### Last Chance

(by Trout Steak Revival/Travis MacNamara)

You know I love you, I wanna see you, sit with you again  
Drinkin' coffee in your kitchen rememberin'  
All your good times in the army, bad times in the war  
You know I love you, I wanna see you just one time more

It is what it is  
There's nothing you can do  
It's comin' for me and it's comin' for you  
I'm gonna tell you how I'm feelin'  
Before that comes to pass  
And I won't miss my last chance  
  
But my phone rang this morning, the bristles on my neck  
You fell asleep in this world and passed on to the next  
I walked out into the open under a clear blue sky  
All the words I never said fallin' from my eyes



## KUDOS COLUMN

Kudos to ALL the Teams! They work so hard behind the scenes, on the books, on the computers and on the building and grounds!

This month we lift up the Faith Education Team, who has launched a fantastic Fall Season of education offerings: TELLS, Adult Sunday School (The Elephant Group!), Conversations That Matter, and Journey Group! Deepen your faith and join in!

## PASTOR REBECCA WANTS TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

~Pastoral care & counseling, spiritual companionship, or just a warm conversation.

Please set up a time for a porch visit, distanced/masked visit, phone call, text, email or Zoom conversation.

Email to [revbecca@icloud.com](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).
- ◆ Rae's office hours to be announced in the near future.
- ◆ Contact Rae 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 Rae gets contact information from them and goes over the do's and don'ts. Thank you!

Contact Rae 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.**

Earn a \$10 bag of compost for every friend/neighbor/colleague you refer to our residential or business waste diversion programs! It's easy - just click [here](#) to fill out the form and we'll contact you when your referral has signed up.

# NEIGHBOR CHECK-IN

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

- Family of Jim Driskel (Doyle Nyberg's Uncle)— Comfort
- Pat Driskel (Doyle Nyberg's Aunt)—Healing
- Family of Roger Cason—Comfort
- Maritza Kaniewski (Friend of Debby Cason)—Comfort
- Joan Lydy (Friend of Debby Cason)—Healing
- Daryl & Eva Sidebottom—Highest and Best Outcome
- Sarah & Rod Struthers—Healing
- Pam Hughes—Healing
- Brooke Davis (Doyle & Leonard Nyberg's cousin)—Healing
- Pat & Jim Driskel (aunt & uncle of Doyle and Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
- Dale Rak (Ron Rak's brother)—Healing
- Nevzat & Claire (friends of Debby Cason)—Healing
- Rojdah & Maryann Shepherd (friends of Debby Cason)—Strength
- Addilynn Miller, age 10, daughter of Doyle Nyberg's co-worker-Nick Miller—Healing



## CUCC Special Dates

### BIRTHDAYS

- October 11— Herb Daugherty
- October 11— Avis Rutkowski
- October 13— VirJeanne Williams
- October 13— Alice Wolters
- October 16— Brady Wolters
- October 19— Shirl Holloway
- October 21— Dick Scar
- October 24— Ruth Amster



### ANNIVERSARIES

- October 25— Steve and Adele Jackson



*Don't see your special day listed?*  
Please contact Rae in the office at 719-395-2544  
or [office.bvcucc@gmail.com](mailto:office.bvcucc@gmail.com).

## CUCC ADDRESS CHANGES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Del & Janet Jones<br>9005 N Oracle Rd., Suite<br>#103<br>Oro Valley, AZ 85704<br>520-975-5914 (Janet's cell)                     | Vivian York<br>c/o Lyle York<br>42643 Sager Lane<br>Parker, CO 80138<br>her phone number remains the same:<br>719-239-0615 |
| Bob & Marilyn Frykholm<br>Bonaventure of Thornton<br>1228 Washington Ctr Pkwy,<br>Apt. 314<br>Thornton, CO 80241<br>719-966-2714 | Marcille Drake<br>Homestead at Montrose<br>1819 Pavilion Dr. #109<br>Montrose, CO 81401                                    |

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

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Shirl Holloway<br>c/o Norm Holloway<br>305 E Highway St.<br>Fredericksburg, TX 78624   | Lucille Habeck<br>942 Wiggins Pkwy. #1215<br>Mesquite, TX 75150  | Doris Westerlund<br>c/o Sue Stanek<br>8045 183rd St. W<br>Lakeville, MN 55044                         |
| Paul Dorfmeister<br>(262) 344-2414<br>5522 64th St.<br>Kenosha, WI 53142   | Al & Phyllis McCall<br>Al: (719) 966-9552<br>Phyllis:(719) 659-9597<br>7950 W. Byers Ave. #102<br>Lakewood, CO 80226 | Glen & Joan Wilder<br>(719) 395-8722<br>29531 CR 372A<br>Buena Vista, CO 81211                        |
| Marge Dorfmeister<br>(970) 812-5119<br>Mesa View, Rm. 133<br>601 Horizon Pl.<br>Grand Junction, CO 81506                                     | Millie & Tom Meardon<br>(719) 221-2067<br>813 Evergreen Place<br>La Junta, CO 81050                                  | Wilma and Angie Williams<br>(719) 395-2702<br>PO Box 1808<br>208 S Colorado,<br>Buena Vista, CO 81211 |
| Lorraine Green<br>(719) 207-4827<br>Columbine Manor, Rm. D2-1<br>530 W 16th St., Salida, CO 81201  | Rod & Sarah Struthers<br>(719) 395-6888<br>17100 CR 363<br>Buena Vista, CO 81211                                     | Lindsey (Fagerberg) & Koby Close<br>5413 W Caribbean Ln.<br>Glendale, AZ 85306                        |
| Betty Gwynn<br>(719) 784-7121<br>Rm. 213B Bruce McCandless Colorado<br>Veterans Community Living Center<br>903 Moore Dr., Florence, CO 81226 | Gerry and Jean Venard<br>(719) 966-9524<br>3377 Mill Vista Road, Unit #3205<br>Highlands Ranch, CO 80129             | Vivian York<br>719-239-0615<br>c/o Lyle York<br>42643 Sager Lane<br>Parker, CO 80138                  |

## CUCC's GALE SHAW gets special visitors!

(Story shared by daughters Karen Shaw Kitto and Linda Shaw)

"Summer began with Landon gone for a few days singing with the Holy Pretzels, his youth group choir. They toured throughout the state and coincidentally sang at a nursing home in Salida that was a couple of miles away from the hospital that my mom had been admitted to that very day. She is much better now, but that was a scary day for us, as we had no idea why she was in pain. My sister and I were able to go to the nursing home and watch their performance and then the choir director asked if they could come to the hospital to sing to Mom.

Since they couldn't come inside to sing, they set up outside and serenaded her with a few songs, including one of her favorites "Sweet Caroline"! Their tour was titled "Music Matters" and it sure mattered a lot to us that day. I really feel that that concert kept her fighting to get better and made a world of difference in her healing. I can't thank Katie, Cindy and the kids enough for their time and energy that day. The nurses and staff at the hospital were also wonderful in helping surprise her - I know this disrupted their schedule that day quite a bit but they were so generous and enthusiastic about this. (Mom is back home as of late July and doing well!).



Gale watches as Holy Pretzel's Youth Choir serenades her at HRMMC. Grandson Landon is the handsome tall blonde near the back.



Gale with grandkids Mallory and Landon Kitto (both baptized as babies by Pastor Rebecca at CUCC!)

## Keeping up with Paisley

In the last year, keeping up with Paisley has taken on a whole new meaning. She turned 7 in March and has made wonderful progress. The photos show her taking the basement stairs, whenever she wants. I watched her interact with her cousins and she was in the middle of pile-ups and games. Without the scooting, clothes last a lot longer.

Her vocabulary and understanding have, also, grown by leaps. When she needed someone to adjust a chair, as she passed, I heard "thank you". The braces on her ankles aren't totally necessary but they do make her quicker. She continues to use a feeding tube but still sits at the table, gathering food items on her fork, teasing her tongue. One meal, watermelon seemed to receive an unexpectedly long tasting. Those familiar with her eating habits, said that was something new.

I asked if I could describe her as "becoming more independent". Her mother was a bit more descriptive but agreed with my assessment.

Great Aunt Janet Steiner





**“The Perils of Being a Cat”**

**The Winchester Sun—May 30, 2006**

*As told by Miss Aggie Cat*

I, Miss Aggie, I am now a snowbird cat. Well, I’m not a bird, but definitely I am a snowbird cat. I am spending the winter on an island where it’s hot year round, where I can I can laze all day on the side porch where the sun keeps the tiles warm just for me. And when I’m not snoozing, I can watch the pelicans, seagulls and terns flying low over the ocean, looking for fish to catch.

The best ones to watch are the pelicans because Jean says they are comical. I think they are just plain stupid. Do you know how they catch a fish? Get this: they spot one swimming and so they nose-dive straight down, but, just before hitting the water (I .. swear this is true), they flip their body over and bash into the fish with their heads! The fish is stunned senseless and the pelican eats him. Now, is that stupid? It’s no wonder they act funny. I would, too, if I went around knocking out fish with my head.

The most exciting bird to watch comes alone in the evening. It’s an osprey, and he is huge. I mean, when he spreads his wings wide, and skims over the water, it makes me very glad I’m not a fish. What he does, is he swoops down, skims, seizes the prey with his long talons and then he heads skyward, the fish hanging beneath him. The thing I can’t figure out is where he stops for dinner. Does he eat while in flight, or does he have a special spot where he can land, relax, and maybe have a nice glass of wine with his fresh fish meal? I doubt I’ll ever know.

I also watch the iguanas: a huge, warty pre-historic reptile. One day, an about three-foot iguana somehow climbed up the bushes in front of the porch, slithered right across the tiles, and stared at us through the sliding glass doors. Big Gene said to me, “Look Aggie, do you want to go out there and meet the iguana?” I guess he thought he was being funny, but he wasn’t. No way on this planet would I wish to make the acquaintance of something so eye-balling ugly who just might not like me. Jean says that God made iguanas just like He made cats like me, so we have to be kind to them. Well, I think God might’ve been having a very bad day when He developed iguanas!

I have just one problem with this porch. It is one of those that has a high white metal railing all the way around it. When we first arrived here, Jean said before I could go out there, they’d have to put screening around the outside rails to keep me from escaping. I am not dumb and I just pretended to have no interest whatsoever in escaping the porch. It took several days of observing me lazily lolling on the porch tiles before she finally said, “I guess I underestimated Aggie. She’s even smarter than I thought. She doesn’t want to leave us, so we don’t have to put screening up.” When I knew she was no longer watching me I decided to slip my beautiful body right through the railings and go exploring. Casually, I sauntered over to the rail and stuck my head through. Then I quietly stepped both front legs through. I was half-way free! I took a deep breath, checked one more time to see if she was looking, and decided to go for it. I could not move forward! “What is this?” I thought. Once again, I heaved forward. Nothing! Do you know, my stomach was so big it would not fit through the opening? I could not believe it, but there I was, stuck, half in, and half out. It was not funny and I let out a yowl of humiliation and panic. Jean and Gene heard me and came running. I almost can’t tell you what happened next. They laughed! Here was their pride and joy feline princess, utterly defeated and they laughed. But kindness returned and Jean gingerly dislodged me by pushing me backward. Then she held me in her arms, cradled me and said she was sorry they laughed at me.

I can tell you one thing; I am never trying that again, I am just fine right where I am, secure between my pair of “jeans.”

The view from my porch by the sea is wondrous.

*Jean Brody*

*(Pastor Rebecca’s dearly-departed mother-in-law.)*



**WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS**  
**"WOMEN ON A MISSION OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE"**

ON NOVEMBER 4TH WE WILL CELEBRATE OUR 95TH ANNUAL BAZAAR  
A GIFT TO THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA

The Celebration of Queen Elizabeth II, 70 year reign as the Queen of England this past week was a reminder of her unwavering dedication and commitment to her task as reigning Monarch. As millions of persons stood in lines for hours to show their honor and respect for their Queen, the world was in awe of the pomp and ceremonies carried out so precisely and joined them in honoring the longest reigning Monarch in England’s history. The role and work of women took on new meaning during her reign.

The life of our own church has been upheld by the dedication and commitment of strong women and dedicated men who have worked with them for over 142 years. This Fall we will do our best to welcome the community to our 95th Annual Bazaar, a celebration of beautiful hand made quilts, handcrafted toys, household items, jewelry, aprons and decorative items as well as books, handed down treasures, candy and baked goods, as well as our outstanding luncheon. This event provides support for families and children in many parts of the United States and the world. Sharing compassion and hope to others.

Our congregation makes a difference in the quality of life here in Buena Vista. The talents, creativity, and ability to create beautiful essentials and gifts shines through every year. Thank you to everyone for the beautiful talents you share to make this event possible, As we join hands to share this year’s gift to our community, let us find joy and fulfillment by encouraging one another along the way. Thank you, you’re terrific!

We will meet on Thursday, December 15th for a Christmas luncheon at the church. No gathering in November. Please remember Blessing Boxes.

Love and Peace  
Marge Erickson, President

**1927 ~ 2022**

**Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**95th Annual Fall Bazaar**  
**217 Crossman Ave. Buena Vista. CO**

**Friday, Nov. 4, 2022 ~ 9am-2pm**

**Raffle Items!**  
Sunbonnet Sue twin size handmade quilt  
Plus a Beautiful Vintage Painting

**Books \* Candy \* Baked Goods \* Crafts**  
**Collectibles \* Handcrafted Jewelry**  
**\* TREASURES GALORE! \***

**Lunch! Pulled Pork Sandwiches 11-1pm**

# CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

## UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

October 9th after church at 11:30 A.M.

It's a good old fashion all church potluck so bring a favorite dish that you love to make and a recipe to share. We'll copy them and get the recipes out soon after so you have them in time for

Thanksgiving.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



## BACKPACK PROGRAM

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

Always welcome:

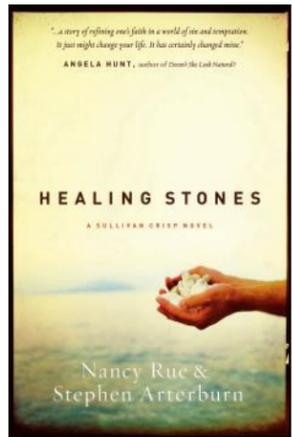
Tuna — Chef Boyardee — Juice Boxes — Fruit Cups  
 Pudding Cups — Granola or Cereal Bars

## T.E.L.L.S. Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society Tuesdays, 7:00pm All women are welcome!

The group is reading Healing Stones by Nancy N. Rue and Stephen Arterburn.

We share life, faith, family stories, support, fun and humor—please join us!

Contact Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list:  
[revbecca@icloud.com](mailto:revbecca@icloud.com)



## Winter Clothes Drive

October 1– March 1

Please bring items to either

Chaffee Community Resource Assistance Center  
 220 W. 4th Street, Salida

Caring & Sharing Sanctuary and Soup Kitchen  
 346 G Street, Salida

Jackets, Coats, Hoodies, Cover-All's/Bibs, Hats, Scarves, Boots, Blankets, Gloves, Socks, Thermals, Face Protectors, Earmuffs, Winter Undergarments, Tarps, Heaters, Sleeping Pads/Bags, Propane Tanks & Cooking Accessories, Hand & Foot Warmers, Flashlights/Headlights & Batteries

## 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.

## 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**  
 Mondays at 8:00am-9:15am  
 Fridays at 10:10am-12:00pm

Get on the list and receive a zoom link by contacting Ray Stwalley at [araystwalley@gmail.com](mailto:araystwalley@gmail.com).

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
 Mondays at 9:30am—11:30am

Contact Grace Church to get on the list and for any updates.  
[admin@gracechurchbvco.org](mailto:admin@gracechurchbvco.org)  
 719-395-8868

## EXCITING GRANT NEWS

We are honored to have received Rocky Mountain Conference UCC's **IN THE MUD GRANT**. Here's our application.

**1. What is the name and nature of the mission or ministry you wish to fund?** CUCC is embarking on and expanding our reach in courageous faith with a significant new ministry: "Retreat & Renewal Ministry – Hosting Speakers, Theologians, Poets, Artists and Musicians." This **In the Mud Grant** is being sought as "Seed Money" for that bigger vision, specifically **two** educational events in 2023 that have been suggested by our Congregation and Wider Circle.

a) *Weekend with a Speaker/Theologian, Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly*

We are seeking to bring Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly, a very popular and highly respected progressive Christian writer and teacher, to speak in our community and spend a weekend with us in learning and exploring an alternative, inclusive and compassionate Faith Path – a way to live and move and be in the world in these days. Our congregation has taken classes with Dr. Epperly and studied his writings on several topics: progressive understanding of scriptures, social justice faith perspectives, Celtic Spirituality, Interspiritual and Multifaith understandings and approaches. We are collaborating with the Collegiate Peaks Forum Series (CPFS), who hosted Dr. Epperly here in 2020 on Zoom.

b) *A Visiting Poet Laureate in Western Colorado, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer*

Rosemerry is an outstanding poet and spiritual thinker for our times. She speaks and writes to the human condition and all its emotions from an inclusive, open and loving and compassionate spirit. Her message, encouraging us all to be "secret agents of change with surreptitious acts of kindness" and creative artistry with words, speaks to our Mission Statement and encourages this voice in the community beautifully.

**2. Is this a new mission/ministry for your church, or a pre-existing one?** CUCC has long embraced the vision of the RMC: "Inspiring, challenging, and empowering generous faith and justice communities across the West." This proposal will allow us to take the next "seedling steps" toward that collaborative vision here in Buena Vista. In this Pre/Almost-Post Pandemic era, we are listening to Spirit for many ways to interface more fully with our community in central Colorado. We strive to be a "progressive voice and safe place of true welcome" in a conservative and sometimes exclusive region, offering true extravagant welcome of body, mind, soul and spirit. Our beautiful setting hosts a weekly Shower Ministry, a Public Health Mobile Clinic, community dance and theater groups, concerts, and countless non-profit community groups and programs. We seek to *expand* our ministry and outreach even more into interfaith spirituality, theology, social justice, interfaith education and the arts for world change.

**3. How will your congregation or community benefit from "In the Mud" with regard to this mission?** Dr. Epperly will meet via zoom with our Adult Faith Education class in the Fall of 2022 as we study his newest book, "The Elephant is Running: Process and Open and Relational Theologies and Religious Pluralism" and then spend a weekend in-person in the Spring of 2023 to learn and dialogue further. We will introduce the community to Rosemary Trommer's work through sermons, book groups and other community outreach in anticipation of her visit.

This grant will make it possible for our congregation and community to get "in the mud" and "hands-on" with our minds and spirits in collaborative efforts and dialogue toward our stated Mission, Identity & Purpose and Focus Areas. We have been engaging the hands and feet in ministries of many kinds, and now seek to expand with more "delving-in" with our minds, hearts and voices. This is very much needed in our community.

**4. What is the amount you are requesting, and how are you planning to spend it?** We are requesting \$1600 to seed this endeavor in 2023. We would offer travel expenses, honoraria, and comprehensive hosting to each guest for their visit here, and would promote these events widely. We would use \$800 from this Grant for each of these educational events as "seed money." We are seeking private and community donors for the balance of the costs.

**5. What will success look like? Describe a milestone or two that illustrates progress.** CUCC would increasingly become sought out as a place for Retreat, Renewal and Spiritual Education. These two events in 2023 would be well-promoted and attended by a wide spectrum of the community, near and far. Participation would be engaging, inclusive and dynamic, and ongoing conversation and learning eagerly sought by all. Those gathered would be calling for more of this! The Sanctuary would be full of bodies and souls and the conversation would buzz for a long time to come.

Our sister church, Grace Methodist/Episcopal, partners with us in numerous endeavors and education as kindred spirits. This would be one more "uniting spirit" pathway for us to enjoy long into the future, and perhaps an annual or semi-annual event!

**6. As you forward this mission or ministry, will you covenant to provide the Conference with updates on your "In the Mud" ministries?** (In the form of pictures, articles, Facebook posts, etc.) Yes, absolutely! We love to share our mutual ministry stories with the churches of the Rocky Mountain Conference. We will also invite the entire RMC to journey to Buena Vista and join us for these wonderful, uplifting, inspiring and "in-spiring" educational events!

# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AE=Adult Ed. Rm. CH=Choir Rm. D=Drama Rm. FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen	S=Sanctuary PL=Parking Lot PO=Pastor's Office RR-Rainbow Rm. #7-Rm.7					1 9-10am AA -AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7 7-9pm BV Community Dance -FH
2 8:45am Adult Ed. -AE 10am Communion Worship 5pm Conversations that Matter (zoom)	3 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6-10pm Latin Dance & Class-FH	4 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	5 6-7pm Clef Notes-CH	6 9-9:30am Backpacks -FH 10am-12pm Journey Group -RR	7 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 12-2pm Shower Ministry -SS Wing	8 9-10am AA -AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
9 8:45am Adult Ed. -AE 10am Worship 11:30am Congregation Meeting and Potluck 5pm Conversations that Matter (zoom)	10 9am-4:30pm Monarch Quilters -FH, K 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6-10pm Latin Dance & Class-FH	11 9am-11am Game Trail Meeting -#7 10am-11am Faith Ed. Team -AE 11am-12pm Worship Team -AE 4pm-5:30pm Outreach Team -AE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	12 10am-12pm Stew/Vis Team -#7	13 9-9:30am Backpacks -FH 10am-12pm Journey Group -RR 7pm-9pm Finance Team -FH	14 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 12-2pm Shower Ministry -SS Wing	15 9-10am AA -AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
16 8:45am Adult Ed. -AE 10am Worship Clef Notes Sing 11am Coffee Hour/Birthday Celebration 5pm Conversations that Matter (zoom)	17 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6-10pm Latin Dance & Class-FH	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	19 7pm Council -AE	20 9-9:30am Backpacks -FH 10am-12pm Journey Group -RR	21 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 12-2pm Shower Ministry -SS Wing	22 9-10am AA -AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
23 8:45am Adult Ed. -AE 10am Worship 5pm Conversations that Matter (zoom)	24 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6-10pm Latin Dance & Class-FH	25 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 7pm TELLS	26 12pm-4pm LGBTQ+ Health Fair	27 9-9:30am Backpacks -FH 10am-12pm Journey Group -RR	28 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 12-2pm Shower Ministry -SS Wing	29 9-10am AA -AE 9-10am Al-Anon -#7
30 8:45am Adult Ed. -AE 10am Worship 5pm Conversations that Matter (zoom)	31 Halloween 9:45am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6-10pm Latin Dance & Class-FH					

## The Other Side: Church Membership That Makes A Difference

Dear Members of Congregational United Church of Christ, Buena Vista, Colorado,

I have been reading literature about the weaknesses of local churches in North America and in the Midwest, including the Congregational United Church of Christ of Buena Vista, CO.

The weaknesses in specific are the following:

- A decreased number of members
- A negative attitude toward the church
- A low level of commitment to do the work of the church
- Indifference toward the declared mission objectives of the church

I admit that there is some truth in these accusations, BUT I see another side to the church.

My Vision:

- I see commitment, involvement, and vision.
- I see people who have freely chosen to carry out these values.
- I see people bound together having made this choice

I will give examples of members who are at work in the church now, not in the future. The tie that binds members together is an inner conviction that under God's guidance the church universal is changing the world for the better.

A woman member comes to our worship service each Sunday at 10:00, but she is also at the church during the week, when she does building maintenance. She paints the exterior siding, she helps install new windows in the sanctuary and she helps frame the new double doors that open on to the lawn.

A couple comes to church an hour before worship. The husband straightens all the hymnals and Bibles so the sanctuary looks to be ready for the congregation. Even the registration card holders have fresh literature. His wife has just finished a term as Moderator. When her term was over she said, now I want to be on the worship team.

A retired pastor is now a church member and has to drive 35 miles to be at the 10:00 service on time. He said, I will serve on the Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee. One Sunday during prayer time he told about signing up for law school in his home state. When Fall classes began he felt a restlessness that wouldn't go away. It was peace Sunday during that month. He finally realized he was being called to the Christian ministry. He went to seminary became a Pastor and served churches who needed an Interim Pastor. Here we see inner commitment at work.

A retired engineer became a church member under the influence of his wife. He is drawn to the outdoors and enjoys being with people. He started a group who loves to hike in the mountains around Buena Vista. They have 15-20 people who hike every Thursday.

A man and wife have become faithful church leaders but they have different kinds of commitments. She has chosen to be the Financial Secretary this means staying after worship every week to count the offering money.

He has taken training in woodworking. He has made beautiful oak wooden tables for the fellowship hall and is a Christian volunteer in prison ministry in our community.

A wife and mother who was a career Postal Clerk for our town is now the Vice-Moderator and for years has served as the Financial Secretary of our church. She and other faithful folks work as a team every week to tend to the financial matters arising from our diverse congregation.

A retired school teacher is our present Church Moderator. She expects guest speakers to address women's issues. Some members of our church do not want to hear about such "progressive" ideas. She has personally studied

conflict management and offers classes to the congregation. Such efforts require much of her time as she tries to be a sympathetic listener. This Fall she is convening a Sunday morning study called "The Elephant Is Running"

The wife of a former Church Treasurer is now our Church Clerk. She takes minutes of our business meetings and makes copies for our members. She sometimes takes copies to the home of a shut-in. Her gift to the church is the extra time it takes to get involved with other members.

Our volunteer choir director gives much time to building up the choir. She chooses the special music for each week, she schedules performances well in advance and during Covid she continued to have rehearsals when the county health department granted permission. Her efforts to motivate our singers are remarkable. She is an expert at origami and makes personal figures to illustrate seasons of the church year. Many choir members regard them as keepsakes.

A woman Pastor is chairperson of the Women's Missionary Society. Her special talent is cooking and baking, so when a special occasion comes she is called upon. She is known in the community and has been asked to judge homemade pies at the annual AppleFest each summer. She often leads studies that assist people in their spiritual growth and understanding of Celtic Spirituality.

A former engineer is now Chairman of the Finance and Budget team. That team reports to church council when special funds are needed. Spending priorities similar to those used by business are set by this team. He gives guidance to the council on how to set priorities. His spouse serves in countless leadership roles, and currently chairs the Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee. This couple brings wonderful hospitality and leadership to our church planning events.

A relatively new couple to our church bring an unusual talent for reaching out to families in our community. She is co-chair of our "Outreach" team. She encourages members to give to the five over and above offerings every year. She raises vegetables and brings the produce to church. She collects a freewill offering which goes to the general fund of our Church. The Outreach Team also offers free showers at the church every Friday.

Her husband is a livestock rancher. He reaches out to visitors who attend our worship service and stay afterwards for a cup of coffee. He pointed to a recent visitor and said, this person is an old friend of mine. Fifty years ago he and I were members of a men's Bible Study. The men came from several different churches but formed a bond which continues to be strong. After fifty years they still meet every week. I live a long ways away but attend as often as I can. This is an example of ecumenism which binds people together through their desire to promote unity among churches.

A man and wife who are lifetime members of our church have their own "meals on wheels." When members are unable to shop for groceries or do the cooking, this team brings "warm food to your front door".

My Summary: there are many more examples that are not mentioned here. These are members with a long history of important church work. When I stop to reflect on church work I am astonished to realize how much is done by a few committed leaders. These volunteers show that commitment, involvement and vision are the signs of vitality needed during our difficult times.

They show what happens when people gather to do what they love to do.

Yours, A CUCC Member,  
Ron Erickson

# CUCC TEAM REPORTS

## FAITHFUL GIVING HOW ARE WE DOING?

Giving for September —4 weeks: \$24,217.00  
for an average of \$6,054.25 per week.

To meet our Budget, an average of \$3,000 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—September greetings!

#### Shower Ministry

The Shower Ministry at CUCC was launched on February 11, 2022. It was planned to be open every Friday from noon to 2:00. No one knew what to expect. Through the end of August we have provided a total of 28 days for people to take showers. A total of 73 showers have been taken. We have had as few as zero to a high of seven showerers on a given Friday. Our highest attendance months were July and August with 19 showers for each of them. For June through August the monthly average has been 16.6 people and the weekly average has been 4 people per Friday coming for showers

Has this ministry been worth all the time and effort put forth by the volunteers?

Decide for yourselves. One of our recent "regulars" told one of the volunteers that he was leaving the area to go back home to Florida. He profusely thanked the church for providing showers and thanked the volunteers for their friendliness and kindness. He even had a card for us. It read: "Bless you. The Lord works wonders through wonderful people like you. Thank you (with the hand written addition) so much for the showers. (smiley face) Jerry."

We made a difference to that starfish!

#### Backpack Ministry

New Bees will be closing because the building they occupied has been sold. They are hoping to find a new place in which to reopen. Meanwhile, this means a loss of their support of \$250 a month for the Backpack program. Thankfully, the program is financially solid at the moment. In the future, though, we may be looking for donations to keep the program going.

Thanks to Ken Rehborn for doing such a fine job of heading up this valuable ministry and to Merilee and Herb Daugherty for volunteering every week to help pack the food bags. And, of course, to all the other volunteers who take part.

### WORSHIP TEAM NOTES

For World Wide Communion on October 2nd, we will have a variety of breads.

Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, November 20th after church. We will have Facilities get the Christmas boxes from the shed ahead of time and place them in the Nursery. There are photos of how the church was decorated last year in the boxes.

Advent starts on Sunday, November 27th

Next meeting will be October 11th at 11 am in Room 7 at the church

Linda Rak, chair person

### STEWARDSHIP AND VISIONING TEAM NEWS

The team discussed several items of concern for our church. These included weekly church attendance numbers, finances at CUCC, use of our facilities by non-church entities, and how we at CUCC are fulfilling our mission statement.

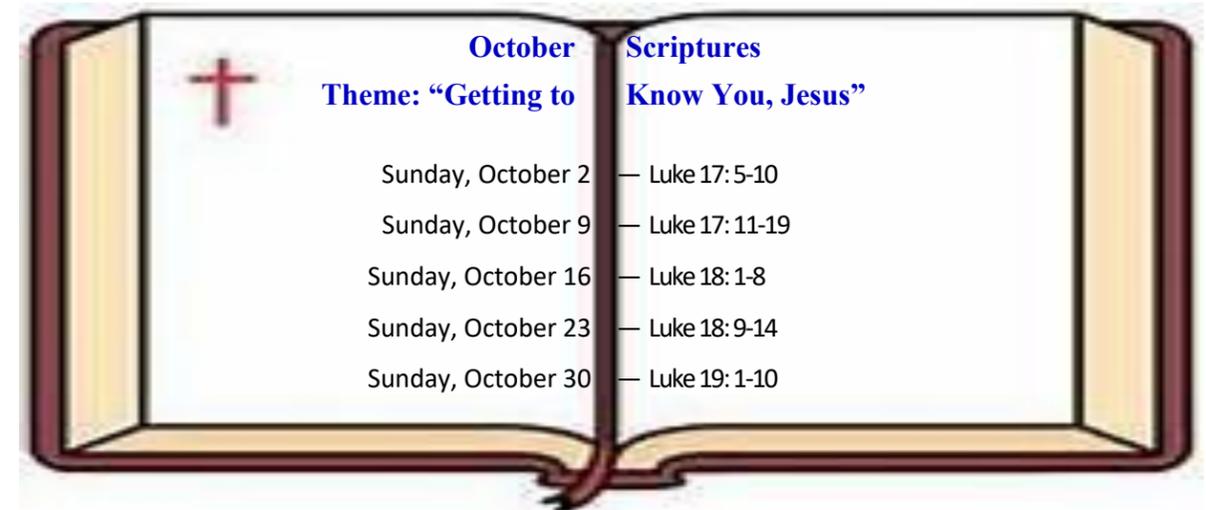
Current revenues are a bit ahead of budget expectations thanks to faithful giving by the congregation plus a very substantial gift from one family. With the rate of giving so far this year plus lower than expected expenses, we may close out 2022 with less of a deficit than we expected. Thank you everyone!

The team also discussed an idea suggested by Kathy Roman. Her observation is that even though the BV area is growing in population, our church is not following that trend. Perhaps, we need to do a better job of introducing ourselves to the newcomers. She also suggested that we could canvas new developments, as well as finding new residents in the greater BV area, to welcome them to BV. We could also invite them to visit our church.

The team agreed in principle to the idea and will revisit it at our next meeting on Oct. 11 after presenting the idea to Council.

Bob Stocker

# PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



### ADULT FAITH EDUCATION

"Adult Sunday School" is getting back together again! Join "The Elephant Group" on Sundays, 8:45am-9:50am in person at CUCC.

8:45am - snacks & gathering conversation  
9:00am - Discussion begins promptly!

Invite your friends! Everyone welcome!

### CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER (CTM)

Sundays, 5:00pm-6:30pm via Zoom  
Starting again on Oct. 2

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)

### FALL 2022 JOURNEY GROUP

Starting October 6

Every Thursday—10:00 A.M. in the Rainbow Room

This fall the Journey Group will embark on a journey with St. Mary of Egypt guided by Amy Frykholm whose research on Mary for her book, "Wild Woman," took her on her own journey to Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. As we trace their steps we will journey through our own lives and share our reflections with one another.

### 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 [tithely.com](https://tithely.com).
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.

Please click "Pay the Fees" to help CUCC.

### 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.

Arlene Waldorf Mike Evans Kathy Roman

## CUCC COUNCIL MINUTES—September 21, 2022

Moderator Betsy opened the meeting at 7:12 pm with a guided meditation based on Mark 12: 28-30. We then read our Mission Statement together, which was followed by discussion on this Statement.

Attendees: Moderator Betsy Neas, Vice-Moderator Kay Allinger, Pastor Rebecca, Bill Waldorf, Marge Erickson, Linda Rak, Helen Duncan, Ellen Kely, Bob Stocker, Donna Maloney and Debby Cason.

**Moderator's Report:** There was no Council meeting last month.

### Team Reports:

**Outreach Team by Ellen Kely:** Ellen did a statistical analysis of clients who used our **Shower Ministry:** since inception on 2/11/22, we have averaged four persons per week, many of whom have expressed gratitude and we even received one monetary donation from one of them, plus a heart-warming note from another. The team will decide what to do regarding showers the Friday of the Bazaar. The Shower Ministry will donate \$500 from their grant money for electricity, water and gas. New Bees can no longer donate \$250 to the **Back Pack Ministry** at this time since they have to find a new facility, however the Back Pack Ministry is currently financially secure and packing 35 lunches per week, mostly to members of the Boys and Girls Club. The school has not yet provided our ministry with a list of children who need food.

**Worship Team by Linda Rak:** The team will merge their MSG restricted fund with the Equipment restricted fund. They will keep the same budget for 2023 that they are using for 2022. The Hanging of the Greens will be held before Fellowship Hour on Birthday Sunday, November 20. The Facilities Team will be asked to bring the boxes from storage into CUCC. The date for Worldwide Communion is Sunday, October 2nd. The team will provide a variety of breads for this special communion.

**Finance Committee by Bill Waldorf:** The team's project of working with the other CUCC teams in combining some restricted funds will come to a close at the end of 2022. Progress is being made. Some of our current restricted funds should be kept as they are, such as The Memorial Fund, the Recycling Fund, The Shower Fund and the Back Pack Ministry. For quite some time the Community Garden has had about \$1500, so a decision needs to be made what to do with those funds. This was originally an In the Mud Grant from the RMC. A motion was made by Ellen Kely to move \$500 from The Community Garden Restricted Fund to the Facilities Team to help pay for the extra water used for the garden. Donna seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Bill pointed out that each team should tap into their budget first. Any overrun could be covered by the individual team's Restricted Funds.

**Faith Education by Donna Maloney:** Adult Sunday School started on September 18. October 2: Conversations that Matter will begin again on Zoom only, Sundays at 5:00 pm. Social justice issues will be discussed, starting with Diane Butler Bass's article regarding Christian Nationalism: "Does the Nation Have a Soul?" October 6: The Journey Group will begin meeting again in The Rainbow Room at 10:00 on Thursdays. Amy Frykholm's book "Wild Woman" will be discussed. Three special events have been planned by the team through 2023. Each event will invite the Community at Large, which might interest more people in our church. These events are: (1) Bruce Epperly will come to Chaffee County to speak once or twice and will lead a CUCC service. This will probably happen in late spring or early summer. (2) CUCC will be hosting the Colorado poet, Rosemary Trommer for a lecture or workshop. (3) A Buddhist Walking Retreat is being planned. The team has received two \$800 grants from the RMC In The Mud Grants, to be used specifically for these upcoming events. And finally, The Faith Ed Team could use another person!

**Stewardship/Visioning Team by Bob Stocker:** We will finish 2022 with less of a deficit than expected, thanks to bare bones expenses and a very generous anonymous donation received in September. Ideas for reaching newcomers to the church were discussed. The team entertained Kathy Roman's idea of the team acting somewhat like The Welcome Wagon which some communities have but Buena Vista does not. Discussion ensued and included the three events being planned by Faith Ed which will introduce people to our church. In the end, it was decided that if Bob and Kathy want to try this approach as an experiment, they have Council's blessing. Marge Erickson added that we could put information out about our church at the Bazaar.

**WMS by Marge Erickson:** Marge has received about 12 RSVP's for the luncheon at Mt. Princeton on Thursday, September 29th. She encourages more participants, including males! Molly Stuart will be giving a talk during the lunch. People who have either passed away or moved will be honored. The Bazaar is a celebration of creativity, hospitality and sharing with our community. She reiterated the idea of having flyers about our church readily available during the Bazaar. Marge questioned whether the shower ministry should be postponed for that day? This will be discussed further with the Outreach Team.

### General Business:

**Clerk's Report by Debby:** Our membership declined by one due to the 9/15/22 death of Roger Cason.

**Receiving Treasurer's Report by Kay:** Kay circulated her monthly summary of the General Fund for the period January 2022 through September 2022, which shows a larger than usual amount for September due to the generosity of one family. To reach our budget we need \$3,130 donations to the General Fund per week. Our average with the large gift is now at \$3,013.26 per week.

**New Business by Betsy Neas:** A Congregational Meeting is planned by Council for October 9th. It will be held after church and will include a pot luck of dishes. Recipes should accompany each dish. Betsy will compile these recipes and make them available to congregants. Barb Groy has agreed to be in charge of Set Up in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers from Council to assist her are Bob Stocker, Linda Rak, Debby Cason, Donna Maloney and Ellen Kely. Clean Up volunteers include Marge Erickson, Donna Maloney, Bob Stocker, Ellen Kely and Kay Allinger. Bob Stocker will lead an interesting discussion.

**Pastor's Report by Pastor Rebecca:** Rebecca is doing tons of outreach by participating in Community events, such as the upcoming Music Festival which is expecting 7500 people. Rebecca will be giving the blessing to the event. Also she and Clarke, Donna and Matthew will be hosting some of the musicians in their homes. She will attend Mary Poppins, the High Country Fine Arts Association children's production on October 8th and 9th. The LGBTQ+ Health Fair will be held at our church on October 26. The CUCC monthly Newsletter will be going out this week. The Public Health van is not doing any better, numbers wise, at the BV Community Center that they had at CUCC; however for anyone who needs a new booster shot, they are available from 1:00 - 4:00 on Tuesdays by this Public Health Service. The Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee will meet on September 28th.

**Prayer Concerns:** Shirl Holloway is on Hospice. Address for sending cards to Shirl and Norm is in the Email Blast. Arlene Waldorf is having her knee surgery on November 11th. Ron Hassell continues to need our prayers, but Warren Montgomery, closing in on his 94th birthday, only reported 2 vultures on Sunday. Daryl Sidebottom and his family need our prayers.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm with a blessing by Rebecca.

Upcoming Events:

October 9 at 11:30 - Congregational Meeting and Pot Luck

October 19 at 7:00 - Council Meeting

October 30 - November 3 - Bazaar Preparation

November 4 at 9:00 - All Church Bazaar opens doors.

Prepared by Debby Cason, 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)*

### INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH!

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

### 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)*