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

217 Crossman Ave.; PO Box 610
Buena Vista, CO 81211
Office: 719-395-2544
Fax Number: 719-395-3789
Email: office.bvcucc@gmail.com
Website: www.bvcucc.org

Like us on Facebook! Look for Congregational UCC Buena Vista

MODERATOR’S MOMENT

“LOVE IS STILL THE WAY”
“Thanks-Living”

“Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:13 & 16-18)

Living with gratitude, no matter what is happening in the world around us or in our own lives, takes a giant step of faith in God!

As we recently saw in the news, many families in the Carolinas, in Florida, and in other parts of the world are left clinging to each other, barely alive, amidst the destruction of their homes and all their personal treasures by hurricanes and earthquakes. And yet, they often speak of cherishing life even more deeply after living through these experiences. Or the terrible shock for Pastor Rebecca’s family on hearing the news of a life threatening illness for her sister’s husband Ed. I know there are others who are also dealing with the loss of loved ones or friends or have received difficult news about their own health. After the tears, the questioning, the disbelief, we often are given strength by turning to those core values and beliefs that have guided/undergirded our lives for years. But what if we have no faith, no cherishing of life, no core strengths to fall back on—where then can we turn? Our Christian faith in God gives us an anchor! The underlying care of God is there even when we don’t know how to ask for it, even when we haven’t prayed for a long time—we are not alone. There is a life force that undergirds us! We can practice gratitude everyday by finding something to be grateful for.

I have found that most people like stability more than they like change. Many of us do not have the resilience that we observe in a rubber band, the ability to regain or pop back to our original shape when we are stretched or pulled in a new direction. I have had a rubber band break when I stretched it too far, or sometimes the rubber band had gotten too old and had lost its flexibility— the resilience was gone. I would like to apply this metaphor to the changes being proposed for carrying on the mission and ministry of our church. The proposed changes for consideration by the whole congregation on November 11th have to do with language and purpose, numbers of persons serving on the proposed Teams, which is a new term being applied to our current Boards, and the type of affiliations persons have with the church. These changes are being made on a trial basis for one year and will be evaluated in late 2019. If you have questions or concerns, please talk with me, Pastor Rebecca, Bill Waldorf, or Task Force members—we will meet with you.

As you gather with your loved ones this Thanksgiving, or anytime you get together with friends and family, take a few minutes to share with one another those things in your life that you are grateful for. They may bring unexpected blessings by sharing them and they may lead to “Thanks-Living.”

In gratitude and thankfulness for each one of you, Marjorie Erickson, Moderator
PASTOR’S ARTICLE, November, 2018

“What is the healing and transformation needed not only “out there,” but inside ourselves, as well?” (Question posed by “Traces of the Trade”)

Happy November! So excited to see the 92nd Annual Bazaar coming together next week! Definitely a highlight of the year here at CUC. Thanks to all who are working so hard, and truly work and prepare all year long.

Following the Bazaar, on Nov. 11th, we have an exciting opportunity to learn about our own history in this country and what it means to love our neighbor near and far. Please join us!

**SUNDAY, November 11th at 4:00 pm**

“Traces of the Trade” Feature Film and Discussion
Refreshments After

Friends of mine, Bill Peebles and Holly Fulton, discovered a family journey and life-calling when they learned that Holly and several cousins were descendants of the largest slave-trading family in US history. Ten cousins got together for a month with their cousin Katrina, a filmmaker, and traced the journey and learned of the lives and fates of slaves from Africa at a dark time in our nation’s history. They have turned this dark and difficult learning into a passionate calling to healing and education that is very needed in our times. We are partnering with the Collegiate Peaks Forum Series to bring this important event to our area and urge you to invite your friends!

About the film:
In “Traces of the Trade”, Producer/Director Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. The film follows ten DeWolf descendants as they retrace the steps of the Triangle Trade. Back home, the family confronts the thorny topic of what to do now. In the context of growing calls for reparations for slavery, family members struggle with the question of how to think about and contribute to “repair.” Meanwhile, Browne and her family come closer to the core: their love/hate relationship with their own Yankee culture and privileges; the healing and transformation needed not only “out there,” but inside themselves.

The issues the DeWolf descendants are confronted with dramatize questions that apply to the nation as a whole: What, concretely, is the legacy of slavery?—What history do we inherit as individuals and as citizens? How does Northern complicity change the equation? What would repair—spiritual and material—really look like and what would it take?

About the presenters:
Holly Fulton has been a diversity trainer, interpersonal skills workshop facilitator, performer, and high school teacher. She has served on the board of a national non-profit called “Coming to the Table,” which holds actions and projects all over the U.S. that bring together descendants of slaves and slave owners for inter-racial healing processes.

William (Bill) M. Peebles, M.Div, MA. Bill has been a Presbyterian Pastor and a Psychotherapist. Issues of Justice and Mercy have been a part of his life from early adulthood. He works alongside Holly to bring awareness of the legacy of slavery and its effects on the current racial wound in our society and the need for healing. Bill is Co-Chair of the Social Justice Ministry of Parkview UCC in Aurora, CO, and is active in 2 Race Dialogue Groups.

Blessings,
Rebecca

Warren’s Verse
He can sing a song and use a voice so sweet.
Tenor is his range; his sound is hard to beat.
He can find a note that adds such harmony, but still climbs the roof to clean the chimney.
He can find the time to share a joke or two. When the vultures come, the music gets him through.
When you put his age into the family grid, he’ll always be

Warren Montgomery’s 90th birthday celebration held on September 23 was a sweet success!

Autumn Treasures
Gone out of mountain cracks and spills down to my door.
My eyes try hard to hold it back to share with our October guests but overpowered by its glare, I rake it up with avarice and in my private counting tower glory in my glowing autumn hoard.

As aspen shades grow pale—colorized by early snows, I look to well-dressed Yale.
That mountain grows so stout on autumn gorge her seams burst out.
Cottonwood-lined streams she hid well in summer folds now streak a tell-tale orange down her faded skirt of gold.

Cottonwoods now dim their lights and winter settles in with all its forty shades of whites.
The Eskimos have word for them but I am left expressionless, bereft of language to describe the subtle, textured, weightless mass clinging to a yucca spine.

— Margery Dorfmeister

Use what talents you have. The woods would be silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.
Henry Van Dyke
Board of Trustees Report

Trustees met 10/16/18 and the following items were included in the discussion:

- Fellowship Hall - Noted that remaining work to be done includes installing valances on the windows. A volunteer has offered to build and install them.
- The motion sensor floods outside rear entrance are scheduled to be replaced with a new LED fixture.
- Sprinkler systems have been drained.
- Sound system upgrade has been completed and is operational. Some training of operators has been completed. Leo donated a lot of time for this project.
- Wi-Fi upgrade is a work in progress. More research is being done to insure the proposed plan will actually improve the system.
- Parsonage maintenance items include all the smoke detectors being replaced with new ones, new LED under counter lights installed, defective dimmer switch replaced, and a cracked storm window replaced. Repair of some damaged vinyl siding near the garage door is pending.
- Replacement of a section of damaged and stained carpet in Fellowship Hall hallway was approved. It will be replaced with some left over flooring from the fellowship hall floor project at a cost of about $300.
- Approved renovating and updating the men’s rest room. Included will be new ceramic floor tile, new sink with cabinet, painting. Cost will be about $1,000.
- Discussed any future capital improvement projects and the fact that the building improvement fund is down to about $400 after completion of half floor and restrooms.
- Updates received from Bill regarding task force progress/plans.
- Discussed the memorial windows project. Mark and Ron will help on the committee to plan this project. It is being well received and should be self-funded.
- Began discussions about the budget and consideration of possible raises or bonuses. A budget work session is planned in the next week or two.
- Cindy presented a financial update.
- Discussion with Pastor Rebecca about Sabbatical Grant, process and administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Hassell, Chair

Mission and Ministry News

November greetings from the M&M Team!
The M&M Board met on October 9 to plan our focus for the remainder of 2018.
M&M thanks you so much for your contributions to Neighbors in Need, the 4th of the 5for5 programs of the UCC. We did good!
Our BackPack Program: Ken Rehborn was ecstatic that slight changes made last month were 100% well received by the families! The reusable cloth bags as “backpacks” are better for the environment and help us monitor participation in the program. Forty-nine of 50 packs distributed in early October were returned for refilling for the next week (one child did not reply due to illness).
As suggested last month, we decided to offer the International Heifer Project as an international outreach for the Christmas season. A special holiday church luncheon is planned for December 9 to present the program! Watch for details in the Sunday bulletins.
We want to finish the year with good support for our sponsored Phillipino child Angelo Abelano. We are preparing a special greeting card – which you can sign! – and financial gift to him and his family for the holidays to inspire him for the rest of the school year. If you would like to donate, we must send the greetings by mid-November to arrive there by the holidays.

Bless your support, and what we do and what we think!

Helen Duncan and Ron Rak.

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

Diane Bails (720) 505-6540
21833 Saddlebrook Court, Parker, CO 80138

Nan Bohe (719) 207-4850
Columbine Manor
530 W. 16th Street, Salida, CO 81201

Jean Brody (303) 720-9959
Sterling House #505
8271 South Continental Divide Road
Littleton, CO 80127

Lindsey Fagerberg
6380 NE Cherry Dr., Apt. 515
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Sarah Struthers (719) 395-2067
318 Pinon Street, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Charlotte Smith 303-684-5681
129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Bonnie Guenther (719) 395-2261
PO Box 12
318 Pinon Street, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Lowe Lewo (719) 490-8288
925 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Apt. 326
Willow Street, PA 17584

Albert & Phyllis McCall (719) 966-9552 - A
7950 W. Byers Ave. #102, Lakewood, CO 80226

Millie & Tom Meardon (719) 221-2067 - M
531 McAfee Avenue, Las Animas, CO 81054

Gail Moffat (719) 221-1131
922 W. Main Street, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Charlotte Smith 303-684-5681
129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211

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

Wilma and Angie Williams (719) 395-2700
PO Box 1808
208 S. Colorado
Buena Vista, CO 81211

CUCC Special Dates

BIRTHDAYS

November 2—Angie Williams
November 5—Gale Shaw
November 9—Scott Colvin
November 9—Lindsey Fagerberg
November 10—Cindy Helm
November 11—Steve Jackson
November 12—Jasmine White
November 13—Zach Fagerberg
November 13—Bonnie Taylor
November 17—Lou Tidd
November 25—Joan Wilder
November 30—Leonard Nyberg

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Don’t see your special day listed?
Please contact the office at 395-2544 or office.bvcucc@gmail.com.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Bill Waldorf—Healing
Nan Bohe—Healing
Marcy Adams—Healing
Linda Baldwin—Healing
Kim Hughes (Doyle Nyberg’s cousin)—Healing
Sarah Struthers—Healing
Jordan Conradson—Healing
Terri Holloway McNorton—Healing
Randy Wagner—Healing
Codi Miller—Healing
Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones’ sister-in-law)—Healing
Krissa Ferguson (Jean & Steve Ferguson’s daughter-in-law)—Healing
Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister’s nephew)—Healing
Gary Bragg (Ruth Amster’s nephew)—Healing
Bill Waldorf—Healing
Kai Allinger—Healing
Ruth Lambert—Healing
Linda Swanson—Healing
Ali Luikin—Healing
The Family of Ada Morrison—Comfort
Millie Meardon—Healing
Mildred Rasmussen (Rebecca K. Poos’ mother)—Healing
Ed Simons (Rebecca K. Poos’ brother-in-law)—Healing
The Family of Jean Lowe—Comfort

Please contact the office at 395-2544 or office.bvcucc@gmail.com.

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Bless your support, and what we do and what we think!

Helen Duncan and Ron Rak.
“The Unbroken Circle”

When I asked one resident here at Brookedale how she felt that first day she moved into her little apartment, she threw her head back and laughed, “Jean,” she answered, “I laugh now, but then it wasn’t one bit funny. My family took my cat from me, put my condo up for sale, and literally brought me here and left. It was weeks before they had time to come again.”

Knowing the extreme importance of the family and friends coming often to visit the resident, I started off this interview by completely forgetting my professional air and said, “Holy good grief, that is horrible! Who helped you get settled and take you to buy stuff you needed?”

No longer laughing she said, “Nobody. And they still don’t come hardly ever. The girls who work here always help me.”

I purposely chose next to talk with a man who has been living here for about six years and whose daughter still visits him several times a week. Anything that man needs or wants, she gets it, including decorating his front door to match the season. Thankfully, for the most part the residents here at Brookedale have family and friends who are faithful visitors.

Personally, I don’t have the faintest idea what I would do if my family didn’t come to visit, shopped for my needs, called me every single day, and listened to me when I vent about feeling bad or when I’m just discouraged about getting old when I had no intention to do it. But they do listen and they let me cry.

As I started to think about all of this, one of my beliefs kept coming back to me. Remember when I wrote about my seeing life as a circle? My Native American friend, Coyote, explained to me that we begin life completely dependent and naked. Our family takes care of us as we begin to grow and learn to be independent. We start on life’s circle right then.

During this life’s circle, we make friends, we’re educated, buy and collect things. When we reach middle age, things begin to change and by the three-quarters mark in the circle, we begin going down hill physically and mentally. Because of this, we start to need other people more. Then comes the day the help of others is just not pleasant, but necessary.

And that is when families start investigating Assisted Living facilities. In other words, the more we weaken for any number of reasons, the more care we must have and for the most part families are way to busy with their own children to bring us into their homes. We don’t expect you to.

So they research, find the best place, and here’s where problems can begin. Why? It’s because the loved ones who put us there do not understand that their part in all of this is not over just because their loved one has a room or little apartment and is fed and cared for. I cannot stress enough that at the very time all of this life changing takes place is the very time you are needed like never before. You are the very connection we have with the world. We don’t usually drive by then, are dependent on walkers, canes or wheel chairs, and without you, we have no independence. You are our connection. We are then on that last part of the circle.

The subject of our own mortality becomes more real at this time because it’s all around us. It is a difficult stage of everyone’s life and no one should feel alone as necessary decisions are made. I know that the older I get, the more I need the love of family and friends.

Sure, certain decisions should be made, but more importantly, to me, are the sweet times spent remembering together with love the things that happened in my life and in theirs. I cherish the gift of time that loved ones choose to give me and I can assure you that we all feel this way.

Did you know that most of us old folks feel like a burden to our families? We truly do not like to ask you, our family, to do things for us and wish more than anything we could take care of ourselves. If you can be there for us without making us feel a burden, you are giving us a true love gift.

As I continued asking our residents about having their loved ones stay close, one lady said, “Actually, once I started raising my four kids, I don’t think I ever felt lonely. Guess I was too busy. But I found out how lonely really feels as I got old.” She smiled broadly and as she turned away from me, she told me she had a wonderful daughter who comes and sits and eats with her a lot and I love to hear this.

Oh my, I can see all sides of this circle now and right in the middle of it is loneliness. What I am trying to stress is that as we age and reach the top of the circle once again, we are as dependent on others just as we were at the start of our journey.

If you are our family or just someone who loves us, stay close to us. Listen to us as we tell you about our life and the people in it and what we did. Maybe you’ve known us your whole life, so make certain you tell us what our life has meant to you. Tell us you love us. May the circle be unbroken.

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

Jean Brody
PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WE ARE FAMILY & WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

If you or someone you know from CUCC has been missing, been ill, or just not around, please let Pastor Rebecca know. Also, let them know we miss them and are concerned about how they’re doing. If you’re going to be away traveling, please let us know as well!

Did You Know?

Sermons can be found in the file box outside the office door, sorted by date. They’re also available in large print before the service—ask a greeter.

Did you know?

that CUCC has an All-Church Email blast each week?

Be sure you’re on the list! Call Nancy at 395-2544 or email to office.bvcucc@gmail.com.

AFFAIRS IN ORDER?

Don’t forget your church!

CUCC has a form for “Memorial Instructions.” This is a helpful tool for you, your family, and your pastor to know your wishes for your memorial service and memorials. See Pastor Rebecca or the office for a form, email for a copy to office.bvcucc@gmail.com, or pick one up in the kiosk at church.

LET’S BE GREEN!!!

Please recycle everything possible at CUCC. We have bins in the office and Fellowship Hall to make it easy. Please do not put cardboard boxes in the dumpster. Flatten and put next to the recycle bin in the FH or give to Pastor Rebecca.

Backpack Program

Food items always in demand:

*Shelf-stable milk (Horizon milk in cartons on shelf at Walmart, white or chocolate)
*Fruit cups (individual) *Chef Boyardee, pasta, etc.
*Pudding Cups *Granola or Cereal Bars

As always, cash donations are appreciated, too!
Educational Tour of the Holy Land
December 29, 2018 - January 10, 2019

Former CUCC members, Rod and Sharie Schofield, are leading a post Christmas trip to the Holy Land. They will be visiting holy sites throughout Israel and Palestine, as well as worshipping at Redeemer Church in Jerusalem.

If you are interested, please contact Rod and Sharie at rodschofield93@gmail.com to receive an email brochure and video of a trip Rod led this past January.

Sign-ups for worship service opportunities [Coffee hour hosts, Flower providers, Greeters, and Lectors] may be filled in on the clipboard on the bulletin board leading to the fellowship hall. There are various opportunities available. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Diaconate Board members [Barb Gray, Betsy Neas, Doyle Nyberg, Ruthann Schoeffield, or Elizabeth Shelby]. We continue to offer free training for all opportunities. Please sign-up for these worship service opportunities!! Thanks to all who have participated and those who have signed up for future dates. The clipboard will be passed through the Congregation at various times to help fill in the holes.

The review and update of the church roll will be completed by end of year.

Upcoming events and activities for November 2018 include the following:
- Communion Sunday will be held on November 04, 2018.
- November 14, 2018 - Diaconate meeting; 4:00 p.m.
- November 28, 2018 - Pre-activities for Hanging of the Greens; 4:00 p.m. A light meal will be served following. [The Hanging of the Greens will be completed during an inter-generational worship experience on December 02, 2018 and during fellowship hour (Advent 1)].

God bless.
~Doyle Nyberg, Diaconate Chair

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Kudos Kolumn

To all who helped with the Bazaar by organizing, setting up, tearing down, moving tables and/or chairs, baking, making and in any way creating, selling, and all the others things I’ve forgotten to mention —Thank You!

And special thanks to Betsy Neas and Janet Steiner for leading the charge on this year’s bazaar.

You are fantastic and your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Diaconate Notes

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God bless.
~Doyle Nyberg, Diaconate Chair

General Contributions through September, 2018
Join the Prayer Team and make a difference right from your own home!

Please surround in love, light and your continual prayers:

- Persons and families on the Joys and Concerns list—healing and comfort
- CUCC stretching and connecting in new, life-giving and inspiring avenues in the coming year
- Leaders of staff, boards, classes and committees, as they serve faithfully
- Music and Worship—growth in participation and experiencing God in our midst and feeding our souls together
- Welcoming efforts—ground breaking, programs, outreach to make CUCC accessible for all, spiritually, emotionally and physically

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 11 right after the service.

We will discuss proposed structural changes at CUCC (see here at the right). Your participation is very important. Please add your voice!

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Present Bylaws

Terminology

Board
Chaplain
Chair
Christian Education
Mission and Ministry
Trustees
(Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary)
Working Group

1. Board size is 6
2. The size is 5, minimum of 3 allowing
3. Nominating Committee some flexibility
4. All persons on Boards must be members of CUCC (Only Chair of Teams must be member of CUCC, individual can serve on up to 2 teams)
5. Two representatives of each Board attend Council meetings
6. Only the Chair of each Board attends Council, and can appoint alternate with vote just for that meeting

Other Recommendations

Finance and Budget Team

Made up of Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer and two at-large persons

The at-large members must have considerable financial experience

One of at-large persons to be Chair and must be CUCC member

Congregational Meetings

Increase number of Congregational meetings to include 3 additional ones, roughly at the end of March, June and September to inform congregation and receive input

Transitional Year

February 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020 will be transitional year

Changes recommended by the Task Force and approved by Council in 2018 will be tested out to determine workability in the transitional year

Council to determine recommended changes in late 2019 for vote of congregation

Changes to Bylaws will not become final until voted upon in January, 2020

Task Force members:

- Melissa Daugherity
- Dwayne Duncan
- Marie Erickson
- Rebecca Kemper Poole
- Linda Rak
- Ken Rak
- Kathy Roman
- Doug Seewerstra
- Elizabeth Shelby
- Bill Waterbey

All recommendations to Council have been made by consensus among Task Force members at each meeting.
CUCC Council Minutes
October 17, 2018

Present: Marge Erickson, Rebecca Kemper Poos, Ron Erickson, Helen Duncan, Barb Grey, Ron Hassell, Betsy Neas, Ron Rak, Bill Waldorf, Arlene Waldorf. Marge Erickson called the meeting to order, opening with a prayer of encouragement, support and hope.

Calendar Review: A review of upcoming events on the church calendar was noted on the Meeting Agenda. Helen suggested that the Pastoral Relations Committee meeting be added, with a proposed date of Nov. 15. A Stewardship Committee meeting was also tentatively added, with date to be determined.

General Business and Reports

Minutes from the September 19 Council Meeting were reviewed and approved as written (Helen/Arlene motion to accept). Clerk's Report: Ron R. noted an email message from VirJeanne Williams that Ada Morrison passed on October 4, and her son Jerry is planning a service at the Johnson Village VW on October 27. Rebecca noted that Jean Lowe (member inactive) passed on this morning, Oct. 17, in Pennsylvania.

Moderator’s Report: Marge reminded the Council members of the upcoming Congregational Meeting following worship on Sun., Nov. 11. She asked Bill Waldorf to review for the Council the planned Task Force Report which has been circulated to the Congregation and will be presented by Bill and Merilee on the 11th. Upon the approval of the Congregation, directions will be given to the Nominating Committee for the recruitment of persons to serve for the year 2019. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting the end of January 2019. Also, if the church restructuring is successful after one year, final changes will have to be made before the end of 2019. Final approval will require Congregation approval.

Pastoral Relations Committee: A Pastoral Relations Committee has been formed in consultation between the Moderator and Pastor. The members are as follows: Helen Duncan, Chair; Mark Wolters, Judy Hassell, Bob Frykholm, and the Moderator. In discussion, it was agreed that the committee should remain small to provide privacy, confidentiality, and limit social pressure on the Pastor. Further discussion touched on the continued work by Arlene Waldorf and will be continued under her leadership at a later date. It was thought that the two committees should be comprised of different members.

Treasurer’s Report: The September 30 financial report showed that general contributions year-to-date were only $8,434.19 under budget. No concerns were expressed about the budget.

Pastor’s Report: Rebecca noted that she would travel to Portland for a seminar and visit with family. The $35,000 from the Lilly Grant for the 2019 Pastor Sabbatical was received. The sound system has been upgraded, improved, and simplified.

Upcoming events to note: Traces of the Trade presentation at the church November 11, 4:00pm in collaboration with the Collegiate Peaks Forum Series. Author John Pavlovitz will speak on his recent book “A Bigger Table” as part of the Collegiate Peaks Forum Series in May, 2019. He will also speak at Parkhill UCC in Denver.

Continuing Business

Window Replacement Project: Ron Hassell reported that the Trustees have started preliminary planning for the project. A committee is being formed to work on the window project per Council direction.

New Business

Nominating Committee for 2019: Arlene Waldorf has been asked by the Moderator to Chair the Nominating Committee for next year’s Officers and Committee Members. Arlene is actively soliciting committee volunteers by word of mouth and through email notification.

Reports of Boards, Affiliated Organizations, Committees

Trustees: Ron reported that the Trustees meeting in early October considered employee salaries, raises, and committee budgets for 2019. They planned to meet again in October to continue the discussions. There was brief review of current repairs. Improvements are being planned for the men’s rest room which is close to the Narthex and entry to the church. A donor has offered to pay for two new toilets: one for the men’s room and one for the lady’s room in another part of the building. Our “thanks” for this improvement.

Christian Education: Arlene and Ron E. reported on a current emphasis was on Children’s Church operation during the Sunday services, with continuing rotating of available personnel. Arlene said the recent Bible exploration at Sunday school went “pretty well” considering the age span of the children. Arlene has planned out some lessons from “Seasons of the Spirit” for rotating teachers in the upcoming weeks. Jean Steiner is organizing a Christmas Program planned for December 16, theme to be determined. Ron reported that the men’s group is continuing study of the book “Original Goodness” by Eknath Easwaran and the Sunday Adult Study is successfully continuing with N.T. Wright’s 2018 book “Paul: A Biography,” with the help of several substitute teachers.

Discontinue: Barb Grey noted that Matthew Maloney had filled in for Doyle at the sound board for the last two Sundays. Board emphasis is on the upcoming Hanging of the Greens on November 28 and December 2nd. The church roll review was completed, but the list needed to be coordinated with the church computer. She also mentioned the recent very successful coffee hour.

Mission and Ministry: Helen said the current focuses are: 1. Contributing to Global Ministries support of our sponsored child Angela Abelebo, 2. Heifer International Project for a December program to include a catered luncheon on December 9, an inspirational presentation, and receiving contributions. Les Messamer would share about his experience at the startup of the Heifer Program in the mid-1940’s.

Visioning with the Identity Statement

Marge Erickson referred to the existing Church Identity Statement that speaks of our vision and actions as a congregation. She asked that the Council reaffirm this statement as a guiding vision and give it a new name at our next Council Meeting.

Announcement

Rebecca announced after discussions with Rebecca, Marge, and Kathy that Marge will continue as Moderator for 2019.

Prayer Concerns / Joys / Adjournment

Rebecca asked that we especially remember Lew Lowe, Rocky Kemper, Ali Lukin, and Bob Smith.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk