

**Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Sunday Schedule
9:00am Adult Education
10:00am Worship Service
& Children's Church
11:00am Coffee Hour



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

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.



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



News and Views

Congregational United Church of Christ
January, 2019



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

“LOVE IS STILL THE WAY”

“The Power of Love”

“There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.
If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, and say, “He died for all!”

As we step across the threshold of time into a New Year, we ask ourselves, “What will this New Year bring into my life? Into the lives of my loved ones?”

Indeed, other questions follow. What will this year bring —

- * Into the life of our nation?
- * Into our global community that we are so much a part of?
- * Into the life of our church that is engaged in stretching our long-held values and embracing change in an even more inclusive way? How can we bring more light, hope, and love to our everyday actions?

Not knowing the answers because the year has yet to unfold, we step out believing that God will show us the Way!

Our last year of news coverage can remind us of the lack of civility and compassion, or instead we can remember the good stories of neighbors, rescue workers, fire fighters, and others helping each other through floods, hurricanes, fires and illness.

This year we can also remember when the world embraced “The Power of Love” through the message offered by Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of America, through his sermon offered at the Royal Wedding in May of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

These are some of his words:

“The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said... ‘We must discover the power of love, . . . And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world, for love is the only way.’ ”

“There’s power in love. Don’t underestimate it. Don’t even over-sentimentalize it. There’s power, power in love.”

“There is a balm in Gilead . . .”— a healing balm, something that can make things right.

I have seen the Power of Love at work in our community this past year by the support given to BV HOPE, the Backpack Program, The Arkansas Valley Christian Mission, The Salvation Army, the Boys’ and Girls’ Club, and the generous support of the Heifer International Project this Christmas. These are the ways that we are used as “Instruments of God’s Peace!”

As we face the many changes that we know will come in this New Year, I have turned to some ideas shared by Rev. Erin Gilmore, one of our Rocky Mountain Conference staff, she suggests that we might think of this time of change as, “An Adaptive Time of Questioning Our Assumptions” and that we could keep the following perspectives in mind:

She suggests 1) Get up to the “balcony” to gain a new perspective, 2) Give yourself permission not to “fix” everything, 3) Engage in episodes of frequent conversation with colleagues, 4) Resist the temptation to take the easy path, 5) It’s OK to experiment, 6) Seek to be creative, innovative and open to new ideas.

These are some of the ways we can help creative change to happen. I’m going to give it my best; will you join me?

In the name of our loving, liberating and life-giving God let us step into the year ahead bravely because we know the God to whom we belong and to whom we look to for guidance.

In Peace and everlasting Joy!
Marjorie Erickson, Moderator



PASTOR'S ARTICLE, January, 2018

Happy New Year! Wow! Where *did* that year go?! We've been doing some incredible mission and ministry here at CUCC this past year. I encourage you to read the Annual Report when it comes out Jan. 13th –you will be inspired! What are *you* celebrating about the past year and looking forward to in the year to come at CUCC? Exciting times are ahead for us!

One of the most exciting happenings this past year is the many newcomers that have attended worship and programs at CUCC, delved-into the life of the congregation, and joined us in our efforts to serve, reach-out, and care for our neighbors in the love and spirit of Christ.

Recently, some folks visiting for the first time asked us at Coffee Hour: What is this church about? What do you believe? What is a UCC church? How is it like other denominations? We (Bob, Ellen, Teresa, Janet, Del, and I) told them many things about our mission outreach, concern for social justice, community involvement, ministries within and without, as well as our character of inclusiveness and being a "spiritual tradition melting pot" of folks from all faith traditions and church and life experiences. We really are unique!—in this place, and in our religious and cultural climate.

We are also not alone. We belong to a wider church, the United Church of Christ, where we covenant with thousands of sister churches around some basic beliefs, passions and principles. Here are some of those values we hold dear in the UCC—next time someone asks you!

What We Believe—United Church of Christ

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable and is on a spiritual journey—each of us at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses'—our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials—unity, in nonessentials—diversity, in all things—charity." These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture, and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor, and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations, and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear—for after all, God is still speaking,....

(Abridged version. Full statement of belief can be found at: <http://www.ucc.org/about-us-what-we-believe>.)

Blessings, hope, peace, love and joy upon our new year together and the adventures in store!

~Rebecca



Nominating Committee Presents the Slate of Officer and Team Member Nominees for 2019

A great "Celebration of Thanksgiving" occurred when the Nominating Committee met to finalize its work. With the new CUCC structural changes, doors were opened for all those who love our church and are dedicated to its work and mission. This encouraged new candidates and revitalized members to serve on one of our teams. We also appreciated the many people who completed the "Ways to Serve" form. That made us aware of people who wanted to serve in a variety of ways: on a team, help with other projects and programs, or volunteer for worship responsibilities.

As a result, our teams are bolstered by more members than we expected – every team is filled and if approved, all of them have six members. The more input of ideas and the more hands to help with the work and mission of the church, the better we are! Thank you so much, everyone.

I'd also like to extend a great big "Thank You" to Ron Erickson, Alice Wolters, and Molly Stuart for your wonderful work on the Nominating Committee.

The following slate of officers and teams will be presented for the congregation's approval at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27, immediately after the 10am worship service. As approved in the structural changes, the entire slate will be voted on at this meeting.

We are grateful to everyone who said "yes!" In addition to those people, thank you for others who completed the "Ways to Serve" form and volunteered to help in other areas of the church. Your responses will be sent to the appropriate team and they will be in touch with you.

God's abundance is seen in surprising ways!

Arlene Waldorf, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee

CUCC 2019 Slate of Officers and Team Members

Officers:

Moderator:	Marge Erickson	2019 - 2020
Vice Moderator:	Kathy Roman	2019 - 2020
Clerk:	Ron Rak	2019 - 2020
Treasurer:	Cindy Helm	2019 - 2020
Financial Secretary:	Kay Allinger	2019 - 2020

Worship/Congregational Life Team:

1. Barb Groy	2019 - 2020
2. Betsy Neas	2019 - 2020
3. Ruthann Schoeffield	2019 - 2020
4. Carla Hansford	2019 - 2021
5. Linda Rak	2019 - 2021
6. Janet Steiner	2019 - 2021

Faith Education Team:

1. Ron Erickson	2019 - 2020
2. Arlene Waldorf	2019 - 2020
3. Alice Wolters	2019 - 2020
4. Billie Branch	2019 - 2021
5. Ruby Hamilton	2019 - 2021
6. Kathy Keidel	2019 - 2021

Outreach/Community and World Team:

1. Helen Duncan	2019 - 2020
2. Ron Rak	2019 - 2020
3. Ken Rehborn	2019 - 2020
4. Jean Ferguson	2019 - 2021
5. Ellen Kely	2019 - 2021
6. Laurie Stevens	2019 - 2021

Facilities/Caring for Church Home Team:

1. Bowie Duncan	2019 - 2020
2. Ron Hassell	2019 - 2020
3. Mark Wolters	2019 - 2020
4. Paul Dorfmeister	2019 - 2021
5. Rhonda Funston	2019 - 2021
6. Darell Hamilton	2019 - 2021

Finance and Budget Team:

1. Marge Erickson	2019 - 2020
2. Cindy Helm	2019 - 2020
3. Kathy Roman	2019 - 2020
4. Lesley Fagerberg	2019 - 2021
5. Doug Seewoester	2019 - 2021
6. Bill Waldorf	2019 - 2021

Stewardship/Visioning Team:

1. Bowie Duncan	2019 - 2020
2. Judy Hassell	2019 - 2020
3. Bill Waldorf	2019 - 2020
4. Ann Condra	2019 - 2021
5. Merilee Daugherty	2019 - 2021
6. Bob Stocker	2019 - 2021



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) 720-9595
Sterling House #505
8271 South Continental Divide Road
Littleton, CO 80127

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

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

Lew Lowe (717) 490-8288
925 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Apt. 326
Willow Street, PA 17584

Albert & 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
531 McAfee Avenue, Las Animas, CO 81054

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

Charlotte Smith 719-395-2939
129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Sarah Struthers (719) 395-6888
17100 CR 363, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Gerry and Jean Venard (720) 489-4830
3377 Mill Vista Road, Unit #3205
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Wilma and Angie Williams (719) 395-2702
PO Box 1808
208 S. Colorado
Buena Vista, CO 81211



CUCC Special Dates

BIRTHDAYS

January 2—Kathy Keidel
January 3—Ann Condra
January 3—Bridgett Tucker
January 4—Cameron Wolters
January 4—Billie Branch
January 5—Carl Hansen
January 7—Sue Howell
January 10—Dorothy Coy
January 13—Nan Bohe
January 16—Vivian York
January 19—Jean Venard
January 27—Tricia Blake
January 27—Elvin Benton
January 28—Marilyn Frykholm
January 29—Jean Ferguson
January 29—Kathi Perry
January 31—Kay Allinger
January 31—Clarke Poos

ANNIVERSARIES

January 7—Frazer & Kaylynne Pomfret



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

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Nan Bohe—Healing
Marcy Adams—Healing
Linda Baldwin—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' daughter-in-law)—Healing
Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing
Gary Bragg (Ruth Amster's nephew)—Healing
Linda Swanson—Healing
Ali Lufkin—Healing
Ed Simons (Rebecca K. Poos' brother-in-law)—Healing
Barbara Smith—Healing
The Family of Ruth Lambert—Comfort
The Family of Dan McCall—Comfort
The Family of John Lay—Comfort
The Family of Mildred Rasmussen (Rebecca Kemper Poos' mother)—Comfort
Vida Davis (Nybergs' aunt)—Healing
The Family of Leon Hughes, Sr. (Nybergs' uncle)—Comfort
Rick Fagerberg—Healing
Bob Stocker—Healing
Gabby Lane (friend of Clarke & Rebecca Poos)—Healing
The Family of Bob H. Smith—Comfort
The Family of Gary Barnthouse—Comfort
Elvin Frantz—Healing



PURPOSE AND IDENTITY STATEMENT

WE, THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF BUENA VISTA, COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

BEING GOD'S PEOPLE BY:

- Loving and serving God
- Living lives of integrity
- Living with thanksgiving and gratitude
- Supporting one another through loving words and actions
- Using God's written and living Word to guide our lives
- Proclaiming the Good News of Christ
- Promoting the unity of Christ's church
- Celebrating our life together

GROWING SPIRITUALLY BY:

- Committing ourselves to life-long learning
- Deepening our relationship with God through prayer, worship and study of scripture and other sources
- Opening ourselves to teachings and insights from many sources
- Cherishing and teaching our church community's children and youth
- Strengthening family relationships
- Openly discussing important issues
- Honoring tradition while embracing new ideas

REACHING OUT BY:

- Being generous with our talents, time and financial resources to make a difference in our community and the world
- Providing support in difficult times by extending ourselves to those in need
- Involving people of all ages in mission work
- Modeling respect and care for all God's creation
- Working for justice, healing and wholeness of life

WELCOMING AND ACCEPTING BY:

- Committing ourselves to be a church for all people
- Integrating people of all ages into active congregational participation
- Respecting and accepting diversity
- Striving to overcome our prejudices
- Loving and practicing kindness toward all
- Laughing together and enjoying one another

CPC Thanks CUCC

To the CUCC Church,
Thank you for letting us rehearse our music in your church.
In great appreciation,
The Collegiate Peaks Chorale

Carolers Thank Betsy Neas

Betsy,
Thank you so much for opening your home to the carolers and the end of their evening of singing and fellowship. The cookies, punch, and coffee were yummy and perfectly hit the spot!
Gratefully,
VirJeanne and the CUCC Carolers



Teresa enjoyed watching the kids decorate as much as they enjoyed doing the decorating! The ornaments were hung on the greens with care.



View from the Mountain

“What About the Dash?”

One time I went to the funeral of the mother of a dear friend of mine. The minister, in his tribute to her life, talked about “The Dash.” In all of my years of attending funerals I have never heard of this idea, but I loved it because of its simplicity and being an image so easily visualized.

He said that we all have on our tombstone a birth date and a death date, but the only really important dates are all the times that person lived among us, as represented by a simple dash.

After the ceremony, we all continued on to the Winchester Cemetery. On every tombstone was engraved a birth date, a dash, and a death date. The minister’s words became crystal clear, and it got me to thinking.

I realized that I, too, have a birth date and will someday have a death date. I’m in the process of living out my dash. To me, it was a clear picture of one’s life on earth.

So, what does my dash look like so far? What has been my guiding force for all of my years? Maybe I should make a list of things I have done that I feel good about and another list of things I wish I could redo, or change, or even forgive myself for.

Maybe in the doing of this, I could begin to understand why I am like I am. I am so like a big sponge and then placed in the rain. Why? Where did I get my compassion for all life? And where on earth did I get such a deep concern about animals and their humane treatment? What, exactly, have I done to live out my convictions? Have I made any difference at all living out my dash? Big questions, these.

After I went home that day I talked to Gene about all of this. He was pretty clear about his answers. He had definitely been a successful businessman and an attentive daddy. In fact, when we married, we raised his youngest three children. And he surely did love me. He, like me, had things on another list we wish we could redo or do better, but loving enough I don’t believe was on the negative list.

This entire dash business really got to me. Mostly, I realize my dash is still being drawn. I humbly pray to do better each day, try to stay healthier, and most importantly, to be more pleasing in God’s eyes.

What about your dash? Maybe you could write two lists and see if you feel good about what you’ve done so far. Did you find your passions and be true to them? Are your deepest convictions still your beliefs, and do you feel satisfied that you’ve loved enough?

The dash is really something to think about. Isn’t it a blessing we can still write out our dash hopefully, with a smile on our face?

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

Jean Brody



Marge Dorfmeister’s daughter Peggy Coggins is absolutely loving the raffled quilt she won at the Bazaar! Didn’t the women of the WMS make a gorgeous piece of functional art? (To see it in color, see the newsletter online at www.bvcucc.org, then click on News and Events.)



Adele & Steve Jackson’s grandkids thoroughly enjoy playing with the train set that was won from the Bazaar raffle. More pictures are available on our Facebook page: Congregational UCC Buena Vista.

Sheldon and Coranelle Mork love the train set. So does their dog Chauncy!



Steve Jackson with Eva Sloan and Sheldon Mork.

Our recent support for the Heifer Project brings home the memories of Les Messamer, who was involved from the very beginning.

“It was a member of the Church of the Brethren who proposed the idea that people in need could be helped by gifts of a bred heifer that would provide milk when her calf was born. In addition, if the calf was a heifer, it was to be given to someone else when it was old enough to repeat the process. The present Heifer International Organization grew from this concept.

“WWII had not been over long when I boarded a ship in New Orleans, Louisiana, that was loaded with heifers to be sent to China. As an Iowa farm boy, taking care of cattle was part of everyday life, which was my reason for being there as a “seagoing cowboy.” There were 26 others and two vets on board as we sailed to Shanghai, China.

“The ship left New Orleans in December of ‘46 and sailed through the Panama Canal to California, where final preparations were made for the trans-Pacific voyage. There were dangerous times during the trip, but God was with us and we arrived safely on Chinese New Year’s Day in ‘47.

“The trip to China was the first ever to take livestock from the UAS to China. We then went to New Zealand and returned to China and were the first ever to cross the equator successfully carrying livestock.”

Les is still moved by that experience; in fact, it was life-changing. “The sight of starving children still haunts me. Anytime that money is spent for luxury seems wrong. Workers at the docks were happy to have a job that required a 12-hour day with no breaks for what amounted to less than a dollar a day. The disregard for human life was obvious. Patience seemed to be a virtue. Individuals would work on a project that they knew could not be completed before their grandchildren were gone.”

Les also noted a couple of other things. “At 5’ 7½”, I was one of the taller people in a crowd and could see over the heads of most. Families did dragon dances in the streets to celebrate the New Year.”

He leaves us with one final thought. “It is necessary to learn what is needed before going ahead with a project of what we think is needed.” Wise words, indeed.



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.

Did You Know?

Copies of Sunday messages can be found in the file box outside the office door.

They're also on the church website at www.bvcucc.org/home/sunday-messages. A link to the latest message is included in the weekly email blast.

Messages are also available in large print before the service—ask a greeter.

Did you also 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 memorial gifts. 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.



January	Scriptures
Sunday, January 6	—Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 13	—Luke 3:15-22
Sunday, January 20	—John 2:1-11
Sunday, January 27	—Luke 4:14-21

BAPTISM! NEW AND RENEWED! SUNDAY, JANUARY 13TH; 10:00AM A SPECIAL BAPTISM WORSHIP SERVICE!

ALL are invited to renew baptismal vows or be baptized.

Please talk to Pastor Rebecca ahead of time if you or your children desire baptism for the first time.
719-252-6890; RevBecca@icloud.com

Join us for this once-a-year, very meaningful time of renewal!

Rocky Mountain Conference Congregations Alive 4 – a Just World for All Thursday, February 7 – Saturday, February 9 First Plymouth Congregational UCC, Englewood

Keynote Speakers—Rev. Traci Blackmon,
Rev. Amanda Henderson

Workshops, Fellowship, Worship, Education,
Faith Formation! Something for Everyone!

Talk to Pastor Rebecca for more information or see flyer on bulletin board under RMC.



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!

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

HANGING OF THE GREENS DURING THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, WAS ENJOYED BY CHILDREN OF ALL AGES.



The children also helped "find" the pieces for the Nativity scene.

(l-r) Ryan Tucker, Gabby Tucker, Ethan Sebel, Tavi Sebel, Paige Foyle-Storey, Penny Foyle-Storey, Skyler Tucker

Doug Seewoester got a good workout helping the young ones reach farther up the tree.



The tree in the Fellowship Hall was similarly festooned.

The busy hands of Linda Rak, Jan Scar, Janet Steiner, Betty Evans, Karen Bowers, and VirJeanne Williams filled 25 hygiene bags on Monday, December 3. Ken Rehborn delivered them on Tuesday, December 4, to La Puente, plus a bag of stuffed animals.

He also delivered to the Rainbow's End thrift store in Alamosa three large bags of bedding, pillows, etc., and six boxes of miscellaneous items which John & Karen Garatti had donated to the Bazaar.

We appreciate the generosity of the CUCC-family in supporting this mission with needed items and cash.

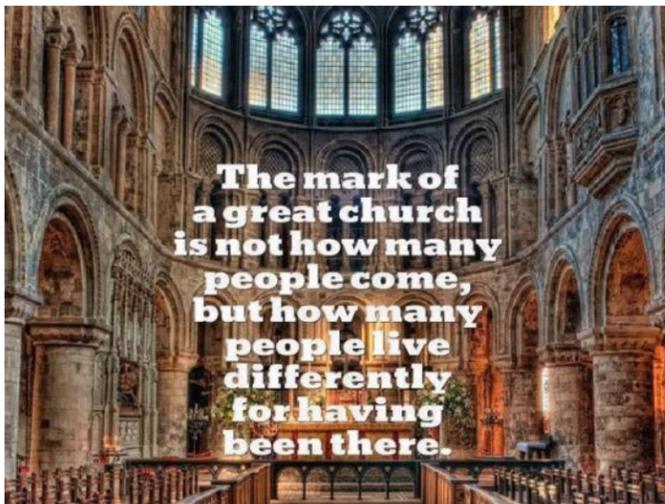
Thank you,
Women's Missionary Society

Announcing the ANNUAL MEETING!

**The Annual Meeting will be
Sunday, January 27
right after the worship service.**

Submission deadline for annual reports is Wednesday, January 2. The completed Annual Report will be available in the sanctuary by Sunday, January 13.





Kudos Kolumn



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who helped make the Christmas holiday season bright, festive, and meaningful. Each of you is truly appreciated.

We remember the "All is Calm, All is Bright" program, the Hanging of the Greens (pre- and during the service), the Prayer Vigil, Caroling, the Heifer Living Gift Market and luncheon, the CPC and other concerts, and the Candlelight/Communion Christmas Eve Service. From food preparation, service and clean-up, to music and readings, prayer and monetary donations, voices and helping hands—all are part of this wonderful and holy season.



Diaconate Notes

In addition to the events listed below, we will be "Un-hanging the Greens" and "Un-decorating" the church on a date yet to be determined. Date and time will be posted and shared in upcoming church bulletins and email blasts.

Upcoming events and activities for January 2019 include the following:

- January 06, 2019-Epiphany-Communion Sunday; Rev. Marge Erickson will be preaching.
- January 09, 2019-Diaconate meeting; 4:00 p.m. [Transition meeting to include new members of Worship/Congregational Life Team.]
- January 12, 2019-Ruth Lambert's "Celebration of Life" Service, 11:00 a.m. Lunch to follow at the American Legion Hall.
- January 16, 2019-Church Council meeting.
- January 19, 2019-Bob Smith "Celebration of Life" Service, 11:00 a.m. Lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall.
- January 27, 2019-Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:15 a.m.

My thanks to all of you for your faithful support and assistance during my years of service on the Diaconate. Best wishes to the incoming Worship/Congregational Life team members

God bless.

~Doyle Nyberg, Diaconate Chair

Thank you from the bottom of our Family's heart!

The kind notes, cards, hugs and prayers for our family during this difficult time of family illness and loss have meant so very much. We are deeply touched and so appreciative of all the love we have received.

Mama Millie loved belonging to a caring, supportive church family all her life, and wanted nothing more than for her children to know the same. I think she's smiling down from Heaven on CUCC!

Blessings and thanks, Rebecca, Clarke and Rocky



MEMORIAL LEGACY for Pastor Rebecca's Mother & Dad: RASMUSSENS' RETREAT

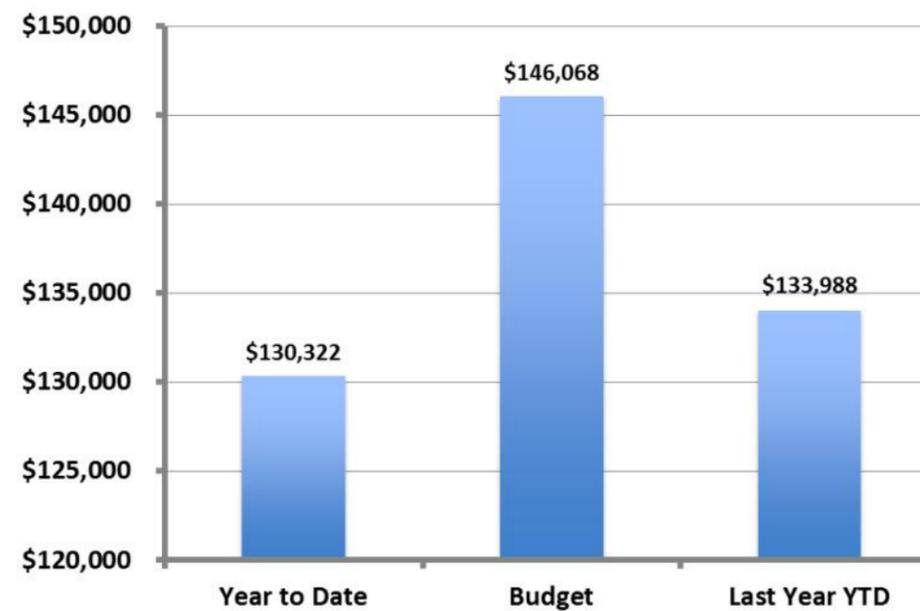
In Mildred's memory, we invite you to join us in making a donation to Rasmussens' Retreat. Funds will go to renovating a lodge room at Camp Arrah Wanna, a location dear to Mildred and her late husband George's hearts, as well as Pastor Rebecca's entire family. In 1941 the camp opened, and Mildred served as one of the camp's first volunteers and then counselors. It was also at this mountain retreat where the pair, who enjoyed an almost 50-year marriage, first discussed getting engaged. Memorial Donations can be sent to:

Camp Arrah Wanna, 24075 E Arrah Wanna Blvd, Welches, OR; 97067.

Or, donate online "In Dedication to: Mildred Rasmussen" at: www.camparrahwanna.org.



General Contributions through November, 2018



"A Little Help" Thanks CUCC

Dear Rebecca and Nancy,
I hope you both have a wonderful holiday season filled with love and community. Thank you for all you have done to support A Little Help within you church and BV.

Love,
Sarah Ward



Please join us in celebrating the lives of two dear friends and members of this congregation.

Celebration of Life service for Ruth Lambert
Saturday, January 12, 11:00am, CUCC

A catered lunch will be enjoyed afterwards at the American Legion Hall.

Celebration of Life service for Bob H. Smith
Saturday, January 19, 11:00am, CUCC

We will share lunch together afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

Mission and Ministry News

January greetings from the M&M Team!

All of us on the M&M team wish to thank all the members and friends who made our first LIVING GIFT MARKET for HEIFER INTERNATIONAL a wonderful success. We especially thank Janet Steiner for her fun game "Guess the animal." The catered luncheon was well attended; we hope that all enjoyed the food. Below are the results of our MARKET fundraiser— all the animals, tree seedlings, and honey bees, etc., we're sending to families in need.

Five shares of a heifer; one water buffalo and two shares of a water buffalo; two llamas and three shares of a llama; two goats and six shares of a goat; one sheep and four shares of a sheep; two shares of a pig; three tree seedlings and three shares of tree seedlings; one trio of rabbits and five shares of rabbits; eight sets of honey bees; one share of fish fingerlings; and fourteen flocks of chicks and ducks. We also collected over \$200 for where animals are most needed. Our total contribution was **\$2,474.00**. God Bless us everyone.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Duncan, Chair

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED  6:30pm Al-Anon -#7	2 12pm AA-AE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!	3 10am-12pm Journey Group-RR 7pm AA-#7	4 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7 9:30am-11:30am Fiber Guild-FH	5 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
6 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Communion Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	7 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6:30pm-8:30pm CPC Rehearsal -S, CH	8 8:30am TOPS -CH 11:30am-1pm Rep. Women-FH, K 4:30pm-6pm M&M-AE 6:30pm-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	9 9am-9:30am Celtic Prayer Circle-RR 12pm AA-AE 4pm Diaconate -#7 6pm Choir/MSG -CH 7pm OA-#7	10 9am-9:30am Backpacks-FH 4pm CE-PO 7-8:30pm Trustees-#7 7pm AA-AE	11 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7 7:30pm-9:30pm Community Dance -FH	12 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7 11:00am Celebration of Life Service for Ruth Lambert-S
13 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	14 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6:30pm-8:30pm CPC Rehearsal -S, CH	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am TOPS -CH 9:30am-10:45am Strong People-AE 6pm-7:30pm Webelos-D, FH 6:30pm-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	16 12pm AA-AE 6pm Choir-CH 7pm Council-AE 7pm OA-#7	17 9am-9:30am Backpacks-FH 9:30am-10:45am Strong People -AE 10am-12pm Rainbow Place -RR 7pm AA-AE	18 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7	19 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7 9:45am Al-Anon Bus. Mtg.-#7 11:00am Celebration of Life Service for Bob H. Smith-S, FH, K 7-9pm Next Step Dance-FH
20 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	21 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6:30pm-8:30pm CPC Rehearsal -S, CH	22 8:30am TOPS-CH 9:30am-10:45am Strong People-AE 4pm Stewardship -PO 6:30pm-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	23 9am-9:30am Celtic Prayer Circle-RR 12pm AA-AE 6pm Choir-CH 7pm OA-#7	24 9am-9:30am Backpacks-FH 9:30am-10:45am Strong People -AE 1pm-3pm WMS -AE	25 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7	26 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
27 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11:15am Annual Meeting	28 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3pm-7:30pm Heritage Board -AE 6:30pm-8:30pm CPC Rehearsal -S, CH	29 8:30am TOPS-CH 9:30am-10:45am Strong People-AE 6pm-7:30pm Webelos-D, FH 6:30pm-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	30 12pm AA-AE 6pm Choir-CH 7pm OA-#7	31 9am-9:30am Backpacks-FH 9:30am-10:45am Strong People -AE 7pm AA-AE	AE=Adult Education Room CH=Choir Room D=Drama Room FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen	PO=Pastor's Office RR=Rainbow Room S=Sanctuary #7=Room 7

CE News for January

This "article" is of course being written as we anticipate a birth and the season of "Epiphany." Let us expect Light and wonderful inspirations in the New Year. The Christian Education Board will transition into the next year as the Faith Education team. As we welcome new team members, we hope to encourage the faith journeys of all those who choose to participate in our worship and activities.

We cannot plan such activities well without some input and help from all of you. Let us know your interests and ideas.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Stevens, Chair

stillspeaking

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

"Leaning into the Dance"

Kaji Douša, November 24, 2018



He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 18: 9, 14b

Wikipedia claims that the UCC is "liberal-leaning."

I wonder what this means.

Some would say that it implies a certain party affiliation on the blue/red divide.

But I wonder if the Wikipedia contributor has visited many of the UCC churches I've served, where the community learns how to dance carefully around divisive political terminology so that certain things just aren't mentioned. I wonder if they've seen just how practiced, how cautious so many of our communities are in ensuring not to alienate one another because we know that there are people in the room who disagree with us politically.

Is this what it means to "lean" liberal?

How is it "liberal" to affirm that trans people exist and are beloved of God?

Why is it "liberal" to celebrate love that builds up and does no harm, in its many forms?

I'm not sure what, exactly, constitutes a "liberal" church.

But I do have an idea of what it means to follow Jesus and to embrace each other as created in the image of God. We cannot "trust in" identities that separate us from our call to love in the name of Jesus. But loving means noticing and setting aside the things that harm.

In following Jesus, I believe that we are called to lean, yes. But to lean into the tough places, to notice our collective shortcomings so that we can, for the love of God, do better.

We live in a world that requires transformation. That transformation will come not dancing around, but rather, dancing with—when we can. Even with the ones with two left—or right—feet, I guess.

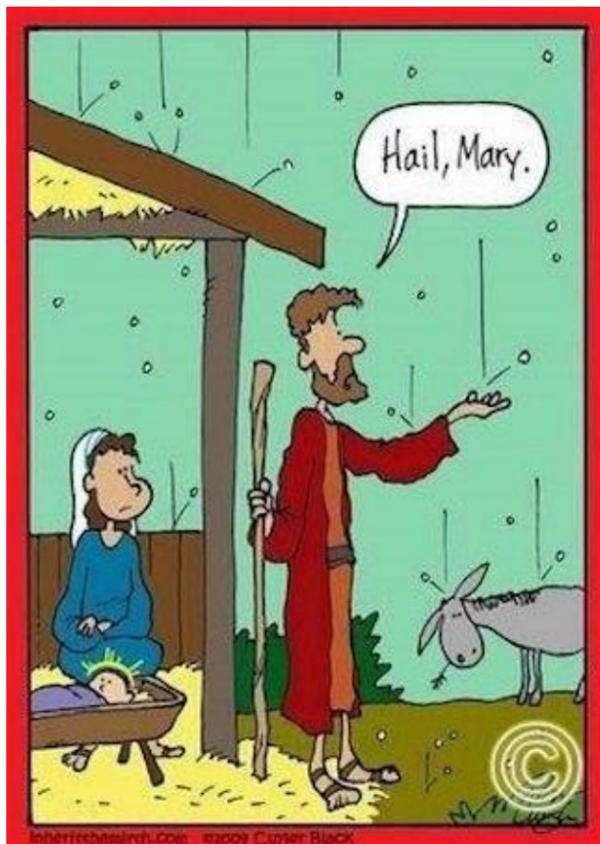
Prayer:

Bless our faith, for you are the Lord of the Dance. Amen.

Kaji Douša is Senior Pastor of The Park Avenue Christian Church, a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, in New York City.



CUCC Council Minutes—as the Council did not meet in December, there are no minutes to share.



Reaching the Pastor

If I'm not at the church, I might be out visiting, at a meeting or writing a sermon.



Leave a non-urgent message at the office at 719-395-2544, call my cell at 719-252-6890, or email me at revbecca@icloud.com.

Pastor's Week At a Glance:

- Sunday — Church Family Day
- Monday — Sabbath & Singing
- Tuesday — Office(s) Hours, Meetings, Appointments, Worship & Education Prep, TELLS
- Wednesday — Writing Morning; Office Work, Visiting, Meetings, Choir
- Thursday — InReach & Outreach Day
- Friday — Catch-All & Catch-Up Day
- Saturday — Final Prep for Sunday & Family Day

The CUCC (and guests) carolers brightened their own evening as well as that of those they sang to. Tom Rawlins, seen here, was very appreciative. Caroling was done on Sunday, December 16, to nine homes with 19 singers. After all the calls were made, the group made a last stop at Betsy Neas' house for cookies, punch, coffee, and fellowship.



CUCC Board of Trustees Newsletter Nov. 29, 2018 2nd meeting

This was the second Trustee meeting this period, but late due to scheduling challenges. The first one was a budget workshop.

Pastor Rebecca submitted a proposal for a change in her health plan. Bill explained the details of the plan. Her proposed plan will save the CUCC about \$750 per year and possibly more, but will require establishing a \$6000 catastrophic reserve. The Trustees authorized that Pastor Rebecca be given the authority to make the choice between her proposal and the current plan and to establish a \$6000 reserve line item in the budget if she chooses her proposal. Rebecca's proposal will provide better health care for the Poos family and save the church significant funds on premiums. A win/win for all!

Sound system upgrade: completed and some folks have been trained on it.

WiFi upgrade: Bill reported WiFi is improved some, but there is to be additional work that will finish it up pending final configuration approval by Bill.

Parsonage: Alarms are upgraded, window repaired, lights replaced/repared. Garage repair is in progress.

Hall flooring and bathroom remodel: Scheduled for 12/12. Removal of the old stool will be the day before.

Budget: Lesley and Cindy had plugged in numbers from Budget workshop. Finalized and tweaked some numbers that Lesley and Cindy will massage and put the budget into final format for final approval and presentation to the Council. There will be a graph of the budget to include with presentation.

Board of Trustees Report for December

Financial: Expenses are currently exceeding contributions by \$5371.14. Contributions are under budget \$15,746. Cindy and Bill are working on the financial info in order to be able to present it clearly to the congregation.

New Team configuration: Marge advised there will be six members of the property team and six on the new financial team. The Trustees areas of responsibility have been split under the new organization. We will wait for the first meeting to organize and see exactly how it will be functioning.

WiFi upgrade: Bill reported WiFi upgrade is completed now and it should only be limited by the provider capabilities and/or reliability. He is working on getting the TVs programmed to use it.

Parsonage: Garage door damage is being addressed, waiting on some parts at this point.

Hall flooring and bathroom remodel: Scheduled for 12/12. At this writing, hall floor is done except for two transition pieces. Men's bathroom has new sink/cabinet and new toilet and the floor is done except for some grouting and threshold. Looking into replacing the light and mirror. 3 more new toilets have been donated to upgrade two in women's hall bathroom and one in the front women's bathroom.

Memorial Window Project: No progress on this project yet. Several folks have ideas, just need to get started.

Budget: Lesley, Cindy prepared the budget and explained it. After a lengthy discussion and with only a few modifications, the final budget was approved for presentation to the Council. Lesley, Cindy and Bill will prepare a graph of the budget to include with presentation to the congregation upon approval.

Bathroom update: Sink and Toilet are in the remodeled restroom. Floor is done except for threshold and a little grout. Looking into upgrade for mirror and light. Thanks for all the help, Bowie Duncan and Barb Wilder!

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Hassell, Chair

Join the Prayer Team and make a difference right from you 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, teams, 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—grounds, programs, outreach to make CUCC accessible for all , spiritually, emotionally and physically



Helpful Ryan Tucker hands ornaments to grateful Charlotte Smith and Jean Buster during the Hanging of the Greens.

