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.

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**LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY**

Encounter With Jesus

O God, whose Son declared himself to be the resurrection and the life, give me now a sense of the presence of the One who is alive forever more, I pray. Amen.

Powerful images of “PRAYER” linger in my mind and heart from the season of Lent which has now burst forth into the season of new life and new hope. The birthing of Creation is all around us; do you behold the transformation? The time of waiting is over, a time of growth and new beginnings is ahead.

Images of prayer I will remember:

*From the Scripture: Mark 14:32-42—Jesus praying in a place which was called Gethsemane. “And going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you, remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what is your will. It is enough, the hour has come.”

* From the foot of the Cross: John 19:25-27—Those who were praying at the foot of the Cross were Mary the Mother of Jesus, her sister Mary, Mary Magdalene and John the Beloved disciple. They faithfully remained with Jesus to his last breath.

* From the Sanctuary of our Church on Good Friday: Our own congregation gathered around the barren Cross to pray and acknowledge the pain, the loss, the coming darkness, leading to the prayer vigil that followed until 12 midnight.

* From the closing verses of the Gospel of Mark: Mark 16:1-7—Women praying and talking as they walked to the tomb to anoint Jesus’s body, only to find a young man dressed in a white robe who spoke to them, “Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and especially Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.”

We are the modern day disciples that this good news has been shared with and has meaning for. Jane Vennard, spiritual director and faculty member at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, describes her “Theology of Prayer” in this way:

“Theology of Prayer” in this way:

“God calls us into relationship. God is love. God is as close to us as an Abba. These are assumptions and attitudes about God that help us pray. When we hold these assumptions and attitudes, we are willing to respond to God in prayer because we trust God and believe we are loved unconditionally. We know that growing closer and closer to God through prayer leads us to become more loving toward ourselves and our sisters and brothers. We welcome the intimacy with God to which we are called.”

From: *Intercessory Prayer: Praying for Friends and Enemies*

Let it be so!

Rev. Marjorie Erickson, Moderator

May, 2019

MODERATOR’S MOMENT
“Jesus sets the bigger table. We don’t have to reinvent Church or create a new system or launch a new denomination. We don’t need a ministry strategy or a building campaign or some magic words. We simply follow him to the table of our own hospitality. We pull that sucker open, drop in a couple extra slabs of wood, and start adding chairs. This is how we become a family. This is how we find our place and set one for others.”

(Pastor John Pavlovitz, A Bigger Table)

In anticipation of Pastor John Pavlovitz coming to speak in Buena Vista, our TELLS group (Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society) is reading and discussing his book: “A Bigger Table—Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community.” We have been having wonderful, stretching conversations about our lives, our faith, and the circles we have lived within through the various stages of our journey. We are excited to meet the author on May 16, and continue to explore how we can continue to draw the circle wider and build a bigger table in our church family and wider community.

I hope you will join us on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 at the Ivy Ballroom and explore with John in Chaffee County how we belong to one another and can create community in difficult times. I share here a piece he wrote last week as the world grieved the loss of history and heritage at Notre Dame. – Blessings, Rebecca

NOTRE DAME REMINDS US THAT WE BELONG TO ONE ANOTHER

April 15, 2019. (Used with permission from my friend Joh. See www.johnpavlovitz.com)

The world is rightly grieving the destruction at Notre Dame right now because it reminds us of a truth we so easily forget: we belong to one another.

Watching the flames swallowing up such a universally beloved testament to the staggering creativity that humanity is capable of, we recognize how tethered to each other we are, how fragile and fleeting everything here is—and how starved for beauty we all are these days.

Our collective breath is taken in such moments because that breath is our commonality showing itself—and we should pay attention to it.

Art at its best will always reveal the bedrock truths of who we are, which is why a tragedy like this isn’t merely a French loss (as profound as that may be) it is a loss for the planet. In a time when we are conditioned by our leaders and our news to be violently tribal, the fires toppling Paris’ iconic spire burn away the many and common trivial territorial impulses—and we are left with just our naked, unadorned oneness.

We are left with the reality that we are all in this together, despite the story some might tell. The sadness of this day is not bound by borders, the sense of attrition not limited to a single language, our reverence for the consumed beauty not contained by geography.

This is how we find our place and set one for others.

The best of our faith traditions, the greatest of our Constitutions, the most profound expressions of our creativity, and our most noble personal convictions tell us that we are inextricably bound together.

Today we grieve for the people of France who live in the literal shadow of Notre Dame—and we grieve too for every artist who has ever marveled at its intricacies, every visitor who’s ever stood beneath its dome and stared up in wonder, every admirer who could only view it from the distance of books and movies.

We all belong to one another.

The more we remember that, the more beauty we will make together in this place. And the world needs beauty now more than ever.

– John Pavlovitz
SAILING INTO SABBATICAL CUCC, May, 2019

People all around the community are getting wind of our “Sabbatical Journey.” They’re asking me, “Where will you go on your Sabbatical?” I chuckle a little and try to formulate an answer. It’s a journey of the soul—not so much geographical, though there are some travels and exploration abroad planned! I share with you here a picture painted in the grant proposal, so you can understand our collective journey this sabbatical year.

What will make my heart sing?
What makes my heart sing? Singing! Creation! Learning! Music! Exploring nature, ideas, theology, and new ways of understanding human experience and our connection with the Divine. All this renews, centers and fills my spirit. Continuing renewal, renewal and recharging is what I seek to live out my ministry and life call to love God and neighbor and also myself.

The theme for the sabbatical is “Natural World as Word” from a particular theme of Celtic Christianity referred to as “Two Books.” John Scotus Eriugena (9th c) expressed it: God speaks to us through two books: the little book of Scripture and the big book of creation.” My desire for sabbatical is to further explore Celtic Christianity, already began at CUCC, with a specific focus on this “Two Books” stream, which also has parallels in Native American spirituality.

This will encompass study of nature, music, ancient stories, sites and experiences. I want to learn and share with my congregation how ancient peoples of many cultures experienced the Holy in nature, hand-in-hand with sacred stories and scriptures. I long to take my love for the natural world, its beauty and its creatures to a new level of understanding of God as “the One in whom we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)

Travel to ancient holy sites and “thin places” both in Celtic lands and the United States will be included, along with study and learning closer to home. I experience holy fascination when looking at the world through the eyes of ancient peoples—what they saw, heard, beheld with awe, wondered and feared. I want to understand how they “knew God was in this place.”

A Time for Renewal and Rejuvenation for All
The experience of the Holy in nature planted a seed early on that led me to a deep faith and call to ministry. God was powerfully present on a hiking trail, in the sand as it met the frothy ocean water, and in my own soul’s delight when I glimpsed wildlife or played with my numerous pets. This sense of the Divine in all life walked alongside my active and joyful participation in church community. Youth and family retreats at the beach, summer camps in the mountains, exploring the beauty of creation on foot and horseback, and through music and community have been formative in my life and vocation. I long to reconnect with that first love and sense of call, as I embark on the next chapter of my ministry and life.

I have recently come to more fully understand a deep and essential connection in my being with creation and being outdoors. It’s where my soul is most at home, where my spirit finds nourishment, and where I most fully experience God’s presence. Discovering this aspect of Celtic Christianity—the core connection between the Divine in the Word and the Natural world as complementary and not somehow in conflict, has been life-giving for me, and a “coming home to myself and my faith” in exciting ways!

I know in the depths of my being that others have known this connection for eons, and I want to know, experience the depths, and learn of others’ encounters with the Holy through the ages. I seek to renew my covenant with myself, the congregation, and with God through exploring these depths and nourishing my soul in nature and “the music of the spheres.”

And to my listening ears, all Nature sings, and round me rings, the music of the spheres
I am continually involved in countless endeavors and taking on new tasks and responsibilities. I seek to bring creativity to all I do: preaching, pastoral care, worship, music. I find I need to “unclutter” and thoroughly “run away and play” in order to recharge, stay fresh and keep my creative leadership vital and inspired. My spouse Clarke, my best friend and life partner, joins on this journey, as we explore Celtic and Native Spirituality together, reading books and articles and going on adventures.

My son, Rocky, has been away at school, and I long for time with him, traveling and exploring creation. The Family Reunion in Missoula, Montana, will connect us with roots and relatives, as the uncles are the tying piece to the articles and going on adventures.

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My son, Rocky, has been away at school, and I long for time with him, traveling and exploring creation. The Family Reunion in Missoula, Montana, will connect us with roots and relatives, as the uncles are the tying piece to the father-grandfather who is gone from our sight.

The purpose of the sabbatical will be to explore, to learn, to reflect in every way imaginable how God is revealed in the natural world in inspiring song and life-giving ways. As I find rest, renewal and inspiration from my own, I want to learn and share with my congregation how ancient peoples near and far, and I will be able to take what I’ve learned and experienced in worship, education, exploration, and life together with our congregation, now and for years to come. We will then put that love into action as we consider together how we engage more fully with Creation and care for our natural world out of love and finding God there. Blessings, Rebecca
The utter wonder of a new born baby, tiny, having to be C-section, out a month early, arriving before his little lungs knew how to function and still not out of the woods—that was only one frightening event in our family one week not long ago.

Alongside of this was the mother who was fighting for her life and the dad who was literally running back and forth from his wife’s hospital room to his precious new son in intensive care. Everybody in the family except myself rushed to the hospital to do whatever possible to keep everyone calm and supported and all I could do was sit by the phone and wait and pray. The very idea that either the mother or the baby might not make it seemed incomprehensible to me. I tried to write, but my tears kept on plopping on the inked words and smearing the page.

Now, most females bear babies. It is painful, traumatic, beautiful, and life changing. But all the trauma fades and is substituted with the kind of love and complete devotion you never felt before.

But that Tuesday, something went terribly wrong for this young couple. I’m writing this three days later. Neither of them were quite safe yet, and I am, as always, up at my recliner and thinking. I went to my forever place of peace early on. Now I believe that things will be filled with courage and love. I see that no matter whatever else happens, this wee little guy has opened his eyes and looked squarely at his daddy. This is his first gift of joy.

It looks like the worst is over. One day next week the three will hopefully go home, him on his oxygen machine making it possible for his lungs to function, and for her lots of family help. All the frightful days have settled into a very thankful life ahead. As I sit here a big smile spreads over my heart. When I closed my eyes, all of a sudden one of my funny memories crept into my head. It, too, is about the miracle of birth, only this time—well let me share this true story about having a baby.

Way back when I lived in Kentucky and my daughter Phoebe lived in Colorado, she would call me every day on her cell phone as she drove to work. Usually we talked about girl stuff. But one day last week the call got more interesting.

As we talked, I kept hearing this sort of mewing, sniffing sound. Her answer when I asked what the noise was, was, “Oh it’s Missy in labor so I’m taking her to my office.” Missy was their female pug dog and Missy will need help to break the fetal sack. Amazed, I asked Phoebe what she would do if Missy started delivering babies right in the car? She calmly assured me she would simply pull over and deliver them.

“Oh, Mom, it looks like here we go!” Apparently little Missy all of a sudden plopped to her side and started pushing out a little pug puppy. Then I heard Phoebe say, “Oh, Missy, girl!”

The totally frazzled little Missy started turning in tight circles inside the big carrier sitting on her side and started pushing out a little pug puppy. Then I heard Phoebe say, “Oh, Missy, girl!”

I heard the SUV pull to a stop while all the while Phoebe was purring a reassurance to poor little Missy. It was during that time that we were disconnected. My imagination took over. There we were no longer connected, but I could see all kinds of things happening on that back Colorado morning road.

It was ten pm before I heard again. This story she told me made me laugh so hard. Apparently, when she pulled over, Missy got so frazzled she jumped right out over the top of the carrier and started racing with Phoebe in hot pursuit. In fact, that poor dog got so beside herself that she completely forgot about birthing and she sucked that pug baby right back in.

When they got to her office, she took Missy and all the birth stuff inside. Now, I don’t know, but while keeping a watchful eye, she continued to see her clients for six hours. Then back up the mountain to her home, unloaded Missy and all the birthing stuff and both Phoebe and Missy fell into a much needed sleep.

An hour later, Phoebe’s daughter Kelsey came to her mother’s room to announce that Missy had a baby. They went to the dog nursery and delivered the three more tiny beige babies. They removed the sack, cleaned the babies, and helped poor tired but proud Missy be a momma. End of story.

It fascinates me life goes on. Dogs and cats have litters, mares have foals, humans have infant babies in fact, and every species keeps the circle going. Life winds down the very same way and new life completes it unbroken.

You know, in some way this reminds me of the ocean and how the tide comes in and goes out regardless of whatever else is going on in one’s life. It’s a wondrous process, one that gives me a sense of peace that all really is well.

The view from the mountain is wondrous. — Jean Brody (Pastor Rebecca’s dear mother-in-law)
The Worship Team had much to do during the Easter season. From lily purchases to unearthing the cross for the Flowering of the Cross, offering support for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, signing up for the Easter Prayer Vigil, and culminating with SonRise and Easter Sunday celebrations, it was a busy and reflective time of the liturgical year.

We're hoping that everyone enjoyed the first of our Social Sunday Birthday celebrations in March. Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions moving forward. We appreciate any and all feedback.

We are also preparing to support Mallory Everhart, Rev. Rebecca’s sabbatical relief, as she joins us this summer to lead worship and become a member of the CUCC family.

Respectfully submitted, Ruthanne Schoeffield, Secretary

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.

Kudos Column
Rhonda Funston—ordering eco-friendly cups for Coffee Hour!

Paul Dorfmeister—cleaning gutters and staining deck/fence at the parsonage!

Barb Groy & Delmar Smith—getting the old toilets to their forever home!

Worship Team Notes
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“Cultivating Hope and Creating Community”
A Compassionate Guide for Difficult Days—with John Pavlovitz
Thursday, May 16, 7:00pm, Ivy Ballroom at the Surf Hotel

- In days when so much need is at our doorsteps and on our news feeds, how do we attend to it all without becoming overwhelmed and consumed by it? How can we cultivate hope when it’s hard to come by? John Pavlovitz, author of “A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community” and “Hope and Other Superpowers: A Life-Affirming, Love-Defending, Butt-Kicking, World-Saving Manifesto,” leads a time of authentic conversation on how to be safely burdened with the pain of this world and what to do when you have exhausted your resources.

The Noteables & You’ve Got Male
Embrace the Unknown
Directed by Linda Taylor

Featuring:
Don Blanton, Drums
Bonnie Conant, Flute

May 3, 7:30 PM
Clearview Community Church, Buena Vista

May 4, 7:50 PM
First Presbyterian Church, Salida

May 5, 3:00 PM
Steam Plant Event Center, Salida

ALL-CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY
w/Light Lunch
Saturday, May 11, 9:00am-12:00pm

Get in the spirit of Spring Cleaning and help keep CUCC spick and span! Whistling while you work is encouraged (or at least allowed). The fellowship is welcome, the work satisfying, the lunch delicious, and the result priceless. And no, we won’t be cleaning windows this time, as we’re on the way to getting new ones! :)

MONDAY MORNING MEN’S GROUP
Mondays at 8:00am
Grace Church Annex

Men of CUCC are invited to join men of Grace Church for this class. They are currently studying “Natural Grace” by Michael Fox and Rupert Sheldrake. Fox represents the theological tenet of Original Blessing and Sheldrake is a biologist. They discuss science and religion, each from his own background.

The sessions last from one to 1/2 hours and are open to men of CUCC and the community.

All Men are invited to learn, discuss, and grow!

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Sunday, May 16, 7:00pm, Ivy Ballroom at the Surf Hotel

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**C U C C F i n a n c e a n d B u d g e t T e a m**

**April News**

As the Finance Team did not meet in April, there is no news to share.

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**The Faith Education Team**

Develop a passion for learning.
If you do, you never cease to grow.

Anthony J. D’Angelo

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**Faith Education for Everyone**

Surprise, surprise! What is in that plastic Easter egg? Once again the Faith Education Team created an exciting Easter Egg Hunt for our special children. Thanks to Alice Wolters for gathering the “stuffings” and the Faith Education Team for helping put everything together and “tooling around” the church property to hide all the eggs.

WANT TO HELP? We Want You!

Late spring and summer is always a busy time for education events and fun. It allows us to play more, raise money, work together in creative endeavors, and celebrate both children and adults. If you want to join in these activities, here’s how you can help:

- Make pies
- Serve pie at the 4th of July booth
- Serve on the Planning Team for Family Camp
- Teach Children’s Church
- Financially support a possible mission trip to NC
- Go on possible Mission Trip to NC

The Faith Education Team has affirmed our support of a possible mission trip if Mark & Alice Wolters are able to gather some youth and adults to travel to North Carolina in late May to assist in repairing hurricane-damaged houses so their owners can move back home. If any adults are interested, please talk with Mark.

Volunteers from the Faith Education Team are meeting for the first time to plan another version of Family Camp. The planning committee is open to anyone interested in helping. Our first meeting is Friday, May 3 at 3:00 pm at The View (Best Western Motel). Please come and join us for this first brainstorming session. We have chosen the week of July 8-12 for the event, probably 2 or 3 evenings near the end of that week.

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**BUENA VISTA WOMEN’S CONNECTION**

**Tuesday, May 21**

**11:30am**

**Casa del Rio Clubhouse**

**Luncheon**

Program: Sally Stencil “Her Story”

Music: Wayne Lee on trumpet

Special Feature: Margery Dorfmeister

“Poetry Reading”

$10; RSVP to Vicki Melton at 719-395-8638 or bvцwцmerцse@gmail.com

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**The Midland Hikers’ Art Show**, held in CUCC’s Fellowship Hall in April, was enjoyed by many. More pictures can be found on CUCC’s website under News and Events: [http://bvcucc.org/news-and-events](http://bvcucc.org/news-and-events)

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**SIGN LANGUAGE HELP NEEDED**

Ark Valley Helping Hands has a new member that would love to have a friendly visitor once a week. She is deaf and signs. Do you or anyone you know have some background with sign language? The member’s daughter is willing to teach some basic signs.

Thank you for considering!
Sara Ward, 719-530-1198
AVHH
CUC Council Minutes, April 17, 2019

Present: Margie and Ron Erickson, Kay Allinger, Rebecca Kemper Poos, Ann Condra, Helen Duncan, Merilee Daughey, Janet Steiner, Billie Branch, Cindy Helm, Barb Groy, Rhonda Funston, Kathy Roman.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Jim Amster educated us on the use of the AED in the sanctuary.

Moderator Marge Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:55pm, with the opening prayer from Ron Erickson from a book about the Island of Light.

General Business and Reports

Minutes: From the March 20 Council meeting were reviewed with the following corrections:

Under Financials/Retail Reports that bills are paid EVERY WEEK and that PAYROLL is processed twice a month.

Under Treasurer’s Report it should read “although it is not unusual for General Contributions to be under budget this time of year, it is a concern that they are under budget by a total of $6,130.00 for the first two months.” Helen/Ann moved to accept the revised minutes; motion passed.

Clark’s Report: Clerk Ron Rak was unable to attend.

Treasurer’s Report: As of March 31, 2019, the balance in the checking account was $3,822.39. At the end of March we transferred $6,500.00 from the savings account to pay end of month bills and payrolls. Without the transfer, we would have ended with a negative balance of $2,677.61. The balance in the Savings and CD accounts is $126,054.56. This leaves us with $9,305.00 in general funds from which we can transfer to pay bills and supplement the checking account. The Trustees Contingency fund has a balance of $411,544.84. By May 6 we need to decide whether to renew or cash in all or part of the 1-year CD of $46,000. Cindy expressed her short-term view.

Moderator’s Report: Marge reported that the Congregational Gathering on March 31 had a great turn-out and table conversations. At that meeting, Janet Steiner kick off the Church Family Windows Project. There was interest in inclusive policy discussions and direction on how to invite people to the church. The next Gathering will be June 30, 2019. At our full gathering we will hear from Rev. Erin Gilmore, Associate Conference Minister, on membership trends. Marge will lead us in a Celtic Worship Service April 28. Spring clean-up was discussed and we selected Saturday, May 11 from 9:00, with a light lunch at 11:30am. Linda and Ron Rak, along with Rebecca, will be our Conference attendees.

Pastor’s Report: Rebecca talked about stories we tell about ourselves and that we probably are not seeing the whole picture. We have 60 people that consistently participate in Sunday services, Teams, Fellowship time, volunteering, etc. The church hosts art shows, St. Patrick’s Day concerts, and many community groups.

Summer wedding request: In 2016 Council approved a Code of Ethics in Relation to its Pastor which, in part, states “We will not invite other pastors to provide pastoral services within this church or to members of the church without our pastor’s consent and/or participation.” There has been a request from someone outside our congregation who wanted to use a June wedding in the sanctuary with an outside pastor. After much discussion, it was decided that this type of use will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and someone from both Facilities and Worship will meet with a family representative.

Continuing Business

Window Replacement Project: Janet has been announcing the project at Sunday services. After initial excitement, interest has waned. By the end of April we hope to have sufficient pledges to do seven windows in the sanctuary and three in the office. Letters have been sent to members who moved or are descendants of members who passed.

Community Composting Site: Site choice is behind the garage shed. We would construct the enclosure and be reimbursed by Chaffee Green/GARNA. Pick-up would be once a week, so there will be no odor, and the enclosure will keep animals out. CUC could put church kitchen waste in for free.

New Business

Mission Trip to North Carolina: This falls under the Faith Education Team. Cameron Wolters has been recruiting high school and college students to go May 28 – June 4, along with any interested adults, to help rebuild after the last hurricane. Lodging, food, and tools provided. Outreach to churches will provide financial aid for the young people and will provide opportunities to serve the Lord.

Coverage for Financial Secretary, Kay, in June: Ann Condra will help on June 9, Rhonda on June 16 and 23. They will help count and deposit monies.

Team Reports and Updates

Faith Education: Billie reported the Easter Egg Hunt will be held right after the Easter breakfast. They will host the 4th of July Pie Sale to raise money for the NC mission trip. This year’s Family Camp will be during the week of July 8-12, probably at the end of the week. There are no youth attending La Fete Camp this summer.

Worship: Barb said all seems to be in place for Holy Week services. The lilies were ordered and congregants were asked to bring flowers to place in our mesh cross on Easter. April birthdays will be celebrated on Social Sunday, April 28. May 19’s Social Sunday will celebrate choir’s conclusion for the summer and May birthdays.

Outreach: Helen praised Ron Rak for his management of the coffee/cocoa sales. When there is sufficient money, a case of coffee will be donated to the Holy Joe project. Ken Rebhorn was also praised for his hard work on the Backpack program. Due to difficult family dynamics, we will not be sending money from Angoman for over a year. Jean Buster continues to write in and we receive regular reports from the Philippines. There was a thank you to all the soup makers for the Lenten Suppers. Everything is ready for the Easter morning breakfast.

Stewardship/Visioning: Ann stated they spent their meeting working on by-laws, as this is a brand new Team. They established three points in their mission and are open to suggestions and will continue to amend as necessary. They also want to follow up with visitors to encourage them to continue worshipping with us.

Finance and Budget: See report given by Cindy as part of the Treasurer’s Report.

Facilities: Rhonda reported trash service has changed from Waste Management to Chaffee County Waste and includes recycling.

The upgrades to the women’s bathroom are completed and the restroom just outside of Rebecca’s office will be a unisex bathroom. A small window will be placed on the Fellowship Hall registers to designate where the tables should be placed. Consideration was given to the installation of a camera and doorbell outside the entrance to the Narthex to better safeguard Rebecca and Nancy. Costs are being researched. Rhonda is going through the manuals, instruction books, and warranties for equipment owned by the church and establishing a useful filing system for those items that are still pertinent.

Affiliated Organizations and Committees

Women’s Missionary Society: Merilee reported that WMS will supply the fruit salad for the Easter breakfast. The Salad Luncheon is 11:30am Thursday, April 25 with Janet Steiner providing the program. They are investigating creating a desserts cookbook for the 140th church anniversary.

Sabbatical Planning: Rebecca handed out copies of “Sabbatical Ministry Coverage Agreement Between CUC and Mallory Everhart,” who will fill in while Rebecca is on sabbatical. Mallory will attend our service on May 5 and meet with church leaders. Margie thanked Kathy Roman for attending meetings in April while she was gone.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

A review of upcoming events on the church calendar was noted on the Meeting Agenda.

Prayer Concerns/Adjournment

Those mentioned were Barb Groy, Mallory Everhart, Codi Miller, Angie Williams, Becky and Vic Leavitt.

Rebecca closed the meeting with prayer and we adjourned at 9:32pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 15 at 7:00pm.

Prepared by Merilee Daughey

FAMILY CHURCH WINDOWS update

The project has been launched! Generous church families have given us a nice start and we are very grateful.

Note that it will 4.5 weeks for the order to be filled, so if you are wanting to sponsor a window but will not be submitting payment right away, please go ahead and let us know of your commitment. This way we can order the windows when we know we have enough commitments. An e-mail can be sent to Janet Steiner at siblingkinders11@hotmail.com or a message left at the church at 719-395-2544.

Plaques honoring individuals, couples, or families are being offered for any window sponsorship. This is not only a memorial, but all members of our church family—past and present—may be honored.

A payment sheet was included in the April newsletter. It included the dates, if further info is needed, please ask. The price for a full window is $1,600 and half $800.

Thank you!

Pastor Rebecca, Ron Hassell, Mark Wolters, and Janet Steiner

The principle objective of this newly designated Team is development of the Statement of Responsibilities that will be included in the church bylaws. The following is our first draft:

The Stewardship/Visioning Team shall

1. Be responsible for educating the congregation in ways they can support our church.
   a. Operational support giving
   b. Designated giving
   c. Endowments
d. Volunteer mission opportunities
2. Deliberate about the shortfall of church in moving forward in its vision and purpose.
3. Work to increase and strengthen participation and engagement in the life of our church family.

We will use this as a starting place and amend it as necessary as we continue through the year. Any suggestions you have would be appreciated. Contact Judy Gassell, Bowie Duncan, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf, or Ann Condra with your ideas.

We are also discussing possible activities/projects to promote support of CUC, individuals, and entities. These will be revisited regularly to prioritize and develop specific efforts to fulfill our objectives.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Condra, Chair