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.; 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

Sunday Schedule
9:00am Conversations that Matter Discussion Group
10:00am Worship Service & Children’s Church
11:00am Coffee Hour

News and Views
Congregational United Church of Christ
October, 2019
MODERATOR’S MOMENT

“LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY”

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?……. No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loves us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:30, 37-39

CARE OF GOD’S EARTH, OUR HOME, had outspoken supporters this past week as school children across the country took matters into their own hands to draw attention to climate change that affects their future and the future of the planet. Speaking truth to power, a 12-year-old boy confronted our government and each one of us for not doing enough to protect the environment, the world we live in. Each one of us plays a part in protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, the oceans of this world, and the care of the land we use. The school children carried signs that spoke of their love of creation.

As a congregation we have also made a commitment through the Lilly Foundation Grant to see the “Natural world as the Word” and to “love and care for creation.”

Quote from the Lilly Foundation Grant:

“As a congregation we are on a pilgrimage to understand and put into action God’s love as revealed in Jesus’ teachings about love. We have placed a banner on the outside of our church which reads “Love is Still the Way!” seeking to proclaim that hate and violence are not. We are seeking ways to provide hospitality and respite to the stranger and those who are struggling in our society, like the Celtic monasteries of the past. Also, we are seeking to deepen our love and care for God’s world.”

In keeping with this commitment we have planned a November 8, 9, & 10 Celtic retreat with two outstanding leaders entitled “Reading Deeply: The Natural World as Sacred Text.” The guides and presenters of this retreat will be Rev. Brad Berglund and Rita Berglund who for 20 years have led pilgrimage groups to sacred places around the world. This is their 20th year of leading groups thru their touring company “Illuminated Journeys.” They are currently leading a pilgrimage in Ireland.

Brad is an author, spiritual director, and retreat leader and leads a weekly contemplative experience in the Taize community style. He holds degrees in theology, music, and spiritual direction. Rita is a psychotherapist and spiritual counselor serving individuals, children, couples, and families in many ways. She serves as a therapist and is also an adjunct professor at Naropa University and Iliff School of Theology. Both are authors and see life as a sacred and creative adventure filled with amazing possibilities for each person.

Brad is also a professional photographer and Friday evening on the 8th of November there will be a photographic presentation of many sacred sites from their pilgrimages and learning about contemplative spirituality and the riches of Celtic spirituality. On Saturday the 9th, the retreat will continue at 9:30am with prayers and music in the Celtic style, learning of the riches of Celtic Christianity for us today, and a catered lunch will be served at noon. The afternoon session will continue until 3:00pm with many other kinds of experiences, such as sacred dance for Mother Earth and other music. Sunday worship will be conducted by Rev. Brad and Rita.

Please see Marge Erickson or Nancy in the office to register. A $10.00 gift is requested for provide lunch. Gluten-free lunches can be provided. The Lilly Grant Funds are providing the leadership for this unique spiritual and learning experience.

Peace and joy be with you!
Marge Erickson, Moderator
THINGS THIS PASTOR LEARNED ON SUMMER SABBATICAL

"I set out to learn about the natural world and God’s presence and revelation therein, and boy, did! I found teachers everywhere and in every moment—some in the least likely of places! Stillness and silence and open listening—that’s where things happen and Spirit shows up.

"Nature is soothing all by itself. I don’t have to think: ‘I’m praying now.’ Walking is prayer. Breathing is prayer—every breath we take in fills us with Spirit (ruach)!—and puts us in the midst of the Holy. Mother Nature is the womb of life that brings us to birth and holds us throughout our lives.

"Pivotal moments in my life all involve walking. And walking and walking! Whenever I have a big decision to make or am feeling anxious or afraid, walking and talking with my Creator is the ticket. I need to keep making space and time to do that—which is my spiritual practice!

"Building a Labyrinth in my village, and to be ‘in community’ in this challenging life! Through the ups and downs of the summer, I was struck by this over and over and I truly missed being with you all! Through accidents and surgeries and health scares in my family, being reminded by so many that we were not alone, and held in prayer and care by many hearts is what got us through and still does.

Thank you for being our beloved community and in ministry together all these years and many years to come!

Blessings, Pastor Rebecca

PASTOR’S ARTICLE, October 2019

"And all will be well....And it if isn’t, you’ll be held up by those who love you and the God who gave you life."

(Notes from pastor friend as we waited for Rocky’s biopsy results.)

I’m back! And it’s so good to be back! It’s been a great, full and busy week of meetings, catching-up, pastoral visits and calls, planning for Fall and praying for many with health concerns. I’m way past due for getting this Pastor’s Article to Nancy, and she’s been very patient, so I’ll send some rough, random thoughts in no particular order!

We are bringing that gift to everyone! We all need this beloved church family, our wider community, and to be ‘in community’ in this challenging life! Through the ups and downs of the summer, I was struck by this over and over and I truly missed being with you all! Through accidents and surgeries and health scares in my family, being reminded by so many that we were not alone, and held in prayer and care by many hearts is what got us through and still does.

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WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Women’s Missionary will meet Thursday, October 24 at 1:00pm. Our speaker will be Shandra Nelson speaking about "Monday Collections." Let us come together to learn more about this mysterious topic.

Our hostesses will be Marge Erickson and Vivian York.

Our first Bazaar-related meeting was Monday, September 23 and new ideas were shared for this important event.

~Marylee Daugherty, President

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

Trash Service: The confusion with Chaffee Waste has been cleared up. We are not required to label individual recycle bags as we have the toter & a commercial account. They made a special pickup to get us caught up. Waste Management, is now trying to bill us a Termination Fee of $250. Ron will write a letter explaining why we do not need to pay this bill.

Windows Project: The new windows are being installed. Janet is working on getting the roller shades ordered. At this point it appears we are on track with the budget, although we have a ways to go. The Facilities Team is extremely appreciative of Paul Dorfmeister’s dedication and hard work at leading this large install project. The congregation is encouraged to thank Paul as well.

Pump Saver at Parsonage: Ron is checking with Keith Boyd to see why the bill for this project was so much more than expected.

Front Door Security: The team approved having Ron order the solar security light for the front door for about $145. This motion activated light will provide better light right at the front door. Mark and Ron are researching options for a possible video system to allow staff to observe visitors at the front door prior to entry.

Carpet Cleaning: Rhonda is researching costs of having the carpets cleaned after the Bazaar.

Tree Trimming: There are several large (65’) cottonwood trees with many large dead branches that are posing a considerable safety problem between the parsonage and the church. There is also concern that some of the trees are home to a rare woodpecker. We hope to be able to trim them enough to moderate the hazard, but some may be dangerous enough that they would have to come down. Rhonda is going to check to see what options a professional tree company may have. Ron will investigate into the soundness of the trees. An option may be to rent a man-lift and do it ourselves. Is there a forester in the house?

Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

BV HOPE/A21 WALK FOR FREEDOM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

FOREST SQUARE PARK (next to the Chamber)

Help shine a light on the scourge of modem-day slavery!

Registration from 11:00am–12:00pm
Walk starts at 12:15pm, followed by free drawings and lunch back at the park.

The walk is 1.2 miles along sidewalks downtown.

Pre-register on line at: https://www.a21.org/content/walk-home/gspiw

For more information, contact Beth Ritchie at buenavistahope@gmail.com or call 719-395-6938.

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**RULES FOR CHILDREN IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**One:** If you find that you’re sitting in front of a child and they can’t see, lean to the side.

**Two:** If the children seated behind you are rustling papers, hand them a crayon.

**Three:** If there is a baby that is crying, offer to take the baby from its parent and walk to the back of the church and rock the child for a while. The parent really needs a break.

**Four:** If teenagers are whispering, give them some Smarties. The rustling and crinkling will replace their whispering.

**Five:** If an adult complains to an usher about the noisy children near them, offer to trade seats with that adult and then apologize to the parents of the children.

**Six:** When a child is running around giving everyone high-fives during the time of passing the peace/greeting your neighbor, make sure to give them an extra fun high-five and then high-five the next five adults that you see.

**Seven:** If a child has worn tap shoes to church and is dancing on the wood portion of the floor, slip the sheet music for “The Entertainer” to the pianist and roll with it.

**Eight:** When the children can’t hear because an adult around them won’t take off their puffy jacket and it keeps squeaking and distracting the children, offer to help them off with their jacket and go hang it up for them where it goes.

**Nine:** When a three-year-old insists on standing on the front pew turned backwards looking at the rest of the people, give the child a pair of very dark glasses. That will prevent the child from catching any adult’s eye, which would lead to distracting them. This will protect the adults, who as we know have very short attention spans and are easily distracted.

**Ten:** When a child in front of you is very squirmy and then finally turns around to the front again, whisper the word “Hyde.” Ten: When a child in front of you is very squirmy and then finally turns around to the front again, whisper the word “Hyde.”

**Eleven:** When a child is running around giving everyone high-fives during the time of passing the peace/greeting your neighbor, make sure to give them an extra fun high-five and then high-five the next five adults that you see.

**Twelve:** If teenagers are whispering, give them some Smarties. The rustling and crinkling will replace their whispering.

**NUDITY BAGS FOR LA PUENTE**

The deadline for contributions is Sunday, October 6.

**Needed:** toothpaste, toothbrushes (single packs), shampoo, bar soap (not liquid), combs, brushes, razors, shaving cream, nail files, fingernail and toenail clippers, feminine hygiene items.

**Bedding:** pillows (either decorative or bed), and stuffed toys are all accepted.

**Bath towels or washcloths are not needed at this time.**

**Please place the items in the middle section (Women’s Missionary Society) of the collection box in the narthex. Large items may be left in Room 8.**

If you have questions, please ask a WMS member.

**Your contribution is greatly appreciated and cash is always welcome!**

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

- Diane Bails (720) 505-6540
- Nan Bohe (719) 207-4850
- Columbine Manor
- Jean Brody (303) 720-9595
- Sterling House #505
- Gerry and Jean Venard (720) 489-6888
- 17100 CR 363, Buena Vista, CO 81211
- Sarah Struthers (719) 395-2939
- Charlotte Smith 719-395-2939
- 129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211
- Sarah Struthers (719) 395-6888
- 17100 CR 363, Buena Vista, CO 81211
- 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
- Garry and Jean Venard (720) 489-4830
- 3377 Mill Vista Road, Unit #3205
- Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
- Doris Westerlund (719) 640-1853
- High View Hills #242
- 20150 Highview Ave., Lakeville, MN 55044
- Wilma and Angie Williams (719) 395-2702
- PO Box 1808
- 208 S. Colorado, Buena Vista, CO 81211

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**CUCC Special Dates**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- October 6 — Roger Casen
- October 9 — Jon Roorda
- October 10 — Tom Rawlins
- October 11 — Herb Daugherty
- October 11 — Avis Rutkowski
- October 13 — Veldaanne Williams
- October 13 — Alice Walters
- October 15 — Reggie Nelson
- October 16 — Don Taylor
- October 16 — Brady Walters
- October 19 — Shari Holloway
- October 21 — Dick Scar
- October 24 — Ruth Amster
- October 31 — Karen Bowers

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- October 25 — Steve & Adele Jackson
- October 30 — Tom & Mary Ann Hoyt

**Don’t see your special day listed? Please contact the office at 395-2544.**

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**Please Remember in Your Prayers**

- Kaylynn Pomfret and Blakely-Grace Pomfret — Strength
- Linette Williams — Healing
- Diana Lynn Hill (Lucille Habeck’s daughter) — Healing
- Margo (friend of Barb Wilder) — Healing
- Laurie Riggs — Healing
- Marcy Adams — Healing
- Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister’s nephew) — Healing
- Brian Daugherty (son of Herb & Merle Daugherty) — Healing
- Sarah Struthers — Healing
- Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones’ sister-in-law) — Healing
- Pam Hughes — Healing
- Kacie Wheeler — Healing
- Ali Lufkin — Healing
- Kenny Kimberlan (nephew of co-worker of Becky Mahon) — Healing
- Del and Janet Jones — Healing
- Jon Hurley (Bowie & Helen Duncan’s nephew) — Healing
- Del and Janet Jones — Healing
- Gary Dennis (friend of Rhonda Funston) — Healing
- Ruby Hamilton — Healing
- Al & Phyl McCaly — Healing
- Warren Montgomery — Healing
- Jim Osborn (friend of Rhonda Funston) — Healing
- Rocky Kemper — Healing
- Nan Bohe — Healing
- Mardy Cason (brother of Roger Cason) — Healing
- Dwight Griggs — Healing

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**Stewardship/Visioning Team News**

**Celtic Retreat! November 8-10, here at CUCC**

There will be an informational program Friday evening about God’s beautiful creation in various Celtic communities in the world. Saturday will be focused on retreat and the value that has for individuals and the church. Sunday will feature a Celtic worship service. Grace Church will be invited to participate, as well as the rest of the community.

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**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

at CUCC, Saturday, October 19

10:00am-2:00pm

Here at CUCC—yes, we are hosting this year!

Everyone is invited—not just delegates! Come, celebrate how we are Christians in these times with our sister churches in southeastern Colorado!

It’s going to be awesome!!!!! You really won’t want to miss this!
Forgiveness is a complicated process that involves our deepest empathy, humanity, and wisdom. I think we must realize that hate, bitterness, and vindictiveness are overpowering and they will deplete us; therefore, to be free of that, we must reach the point of making the choice to forgive or not to forgive. Then we must realize that to be forgiven and to forgive are the same dynamic. In other words, if we expect to be forgiven when we do wrong, then aren’t we compelled to do the same? If we can’t forgive others, then we cannot expect others to forgive us. Is that the way we want to live?

Now I will tell you a deeply personal story that I endured. After my divorce and I began dating again in my forties, one night I went out with a man I knew from church. After dinner in a nice restaurant, we were driving home. All of the sudden, he drove the car off the road into a wooded area. Before I knew what was happening, he changed from the quiet kind man to an enraged stranger. He beat me and then raped me. Afterwards, he drove me home and pushed me out of the car door and sped away. I didn’t call the police immediately as I should have, because when he threatened my kids, it terrified me so much that I just went to bed telling myself to just forget it.

Now, you talk about anger! I was consumed with anger, hatred, fear, and depression. When I went back to work, I couldn’t even look at anyone. I was still feeling like a victim and wanted justice. I began to ask myself what satisfaction is there in causing another to suffer if that suffering is for my hurt.

By the time I got the courage to report it to the police, the man had died of a drug overdose. Did that make me feel better? Of course not. I was hurt physically, but I learned that the emotional and psychological pain are even more hurtful. Few of us will escape that.

I was hurt physically, but I learned that the emotional and psychological pain is even more hurtful. Few of us will escape that. We cannot fix the wrongs of yesterday and it is not ours to judge. Let’s remember it. The view from the mountain is wondrous. —Jean Brody
CHURCH FAMILY WINDOWS UPDATE

The windows are in!!! Yes, I know, we’ve told you that before, but this time the windows are actually installed in place of the old ones. And they look great!

The committee first planned that a contractor would be hired to do part of the installation, but no one was available. However, Paul Dorfmeister took the reins and the rest of our church workers just tried to keep up.

One sign of success was the “hooray” heard when a window slipped into place on the first try!!!

Many workers stepped up to make the windows happen—Mark Wolters, Ron Hassell, Kathy Roman, Janet Steiner, Rhonda Funston, Bowie Duncan, Randy Funston, Karen Funston, Delmar Smith, Barb Wilder, Darell Hamilton, Ron Erickson, VirJeanne Williams, Betsy Neas, and Karen Bowers.

The window treatments and plaques are...somewhere in the future.

Without all your financial support this wouldn’t have happened, so accept a warm and wonderful hug from all on the committee. Speaking of the committee, we hope our choices are pleasing!

Worship Team Notes

Worldwide Communion Sunday is October 6. Come, celebrate around the Table with us!

The Worship Team thanks all those involved in the installation of the new church windows.

Outreach/Community & World Team News
September greetings!

The OT met on Sept. 10th to do the following:

** Verify regular financial contributions to the Backpack program, the Free-trade Coffee Initiative, Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Project, and Chaffee County Habitat

** Discuss our preparations for the UCC Neighbors in Need offering (one of the five we contribute to) taken on October 8th and 13th. The donations you make in the pew envelopes is added to the regular budgeted amounts we give as a church.

** Finalize arrangements for a guest preacher on October 13th from La Puente. Israel Garcia has previously given the sermon and will share news of the LP mission and how CUCS’s contributions are put to work.

** Set the date for the December Heifer International fund raiser. Mark your calendars for December 8th and join us for lunch and fun. ‘Tis the “giving season”.

Submitted by Helen Duncan

NEED HELP?

NEED some strong, young help with projects inside and out? Bobby Lewis and The Link students are available for any type of projects!

Youth are well supervised and paid $12 an hour; adult is volunteer.

Call Bobby at 719-395-7704 to inquire.

ALSO — Volunteer Service Work pro bono is available if needed.

Ask Clarke & Rebecca how fantastic the young men’s help is!

WORDS OF WISDOM
TO LIVE BY

Everyone
Every day
Everywhere

NEEDS
Attention......pay attention
Affection......show affection
Appreciation......express appreciation.

Church Family Windows Update

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Paul and the Earliest Gospels

October 14-16
La Foret Retreat Center

Using Paul’s letters and the canonical gospel accounts of Jesus’ life and ministry, Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith will help participants think through the lives and faiths of the first followers of Jesus, who took the religion of an executed Jewish teacher and turned it into a major religion.

For more information and registration, visit www.laforet.org/events.

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

Pastor Rebecca sends a huge THANK YOU to office administrator Nancy Best, interim minister Mallory Everhart, moderators Marjorie Erickson and Kathy Roman, and all the ministers (that’s all of you) who sailed the ship so well this summer!
CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

BIOLOGY AND BUDDHISM, with DR. ARRI EISEN
What I’ve Learned about Life during a Decade Teaching Science to the Dalai Lama’s Monks and Nuns
Thursday, October 10, 7:00pm
Ivy Ballroom at the Surf Hotel

- When the Dalai Lama invited Emory University to shape and lead the first significant change to his monastics’ academic curriculum in six centuries, little did anyone imagine how profoundly this new direction would affect all involved. Dr. Arri Eisen has been involved with the Emory Tibet Science Initiative since its inception. He will discuss unexpected insights gained in relation to science and religion, teaching across cultures, and the process of thinking about and doing science in general.


Tells
Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society Tuesdays, 7:00pm held at members’ homes

We read and discuss books, share life, joys, and concerns, and enjoy snacks!

All women are invited!
The group is reading “Hope and Other Superpowers” by John Pavlovitz.

See Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list.

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!

WEARABLE ART
FASHION SHOW, BOUTIQUE & BRUNCH
Wednesday, October 16
Salida SteamPlant
Boutique: 10:00am-11:00am, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Brunch and Fashion Show: 11:00am
$35 tickets available at Serendipity Yarns
Visit www.heartsfiberartsguild.org for more information.

Women’s Missionary Society
October 24, 1:00pm
Program Monday Collections
Shandra Nelson
Hostesses
Marge Erickson
Vivian York
All women are invited!

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

UNLOCKING THE RICHES OF CELTIC SPIRITUALITY
Congregational Church Retreat November 8-10, 2019
CUCU

"Reading Deeply: The Natural World as Sacred Text"
Led by Rita and Brad Berglund ~Organizers and Tour Guides of Illuminated Journeys, Inc.
Registration: $60 for Saturday catered lunch See Registrar—Marge Erickson

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it,

JOURNEY GROUP
Thursday, October 17, 24, 31
Thursday, November 7
10:00am-12:00pm
Rainbow Room
 Topic: “Where is God Today in the World?”
All are welcome!

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP at CUCU!
Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room
"Conversations That Matter"
Sundays at 9:00am join us in the Adult Ed. room to discuss faith, life, scripture themes, and upcoming Sunday messages with the Pastor.

BE IN THE KNOW!
Copies of Sunday messages can be found in the file box outside the pastor’s office door.
Sunday messages are also posted on the church website at www.bvcucc.org/home/Sunday-messages.
To receive the CUCU weekly email blast, contact the office at 719-395-2544 or email to office.bvcucc@gmail.com.
Nancy is in the front office M, W, F from 9-3.
But feel free to leave a message at any time.
Contact Nancy in the office to get on the birthday/anniversary list. Please include the year of said birthday/anniversary.

LET’S BE GREEN!!!
Please recycle everything possible at CUCU. We have bins in the office and Fellowship Hall to make it easy.

ALL CHILDREN PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE ARE INVITED TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH
Come meet the characters in Deep Blue, learn new songs and have fun with craft projects!
Come to worship at 10 am, join in the children’s message in church, and then follow your teacher to the Art Room.

October Scriptures

Sunday, October 6 — 2 Timothy 1:1-14
Sunday, October 13 — Luke 17:11-19
Sunday, October 20 — Genesis 32:22-31
Sunday, October 27 — Luke 18:9-14

LET’S BE GREEN!!!

"Hope and Other Superpowers"
by John Pavlovitz.

Art Room.
Come to worship at 10 am, join in the children’s church, and offer creative input for Sunday worship!

SUNDAY MESSAGES WITH THE PASTOR.
Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room
"Conversations That Matter"
Sundays at 9:00am join us in the Adult Ed. room to discuss faith, life, scripture themes, and upcoming Sunday messages with the Pastor.

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it,

Ivy Ballroom at the Surf Hotel

- When the Dalai Lama invited Emory University to shape and lead the first significant change to his monastics’ academic curriculum in six centuries, little did anyone imagine how profoundly this new direction would affect all involved. Dr. Arri Eisen has been involved with the Emory Tibet Science Initiative since its inception. He will discuss unexpected insights gained in relation to science and religion, teaching across cultures, and the process of thinking about and doing science in general.

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Please join us! FREE!
EARTH, SKY & SEA—A HEART & SOUL IMMERSSION IN ANCIENT CELTIC SPIRITUALITY WITH BRENDAN ELLIS WILLIAMS
November 22-24
La Foret Retreat Center

Brendan teaches his ancestral Gaelic and Welsh traditions through a lens of rewilding and reclaiming by experiential immersion of head and heart, body and soul, challenging popular assumptions about ‘Celtic Christianity’ and the oft-romanticized lifeways of his ancient ancestors.

Pastor Rebecca and Moderator Marge are considering attending. Anyone want to join us?

Visit www.laforet.org/events to register. For more information, visit www.brendanelliswilliams.com.

LIVING & GIVING with INTENTION:
Has being part of this church changed your life or someone’s life dear to you?
To keep ‘paying it forward’ and changing lives, CUCC needs your help.
* Please consider giving a little more, if you can, as we round out the year.
* Changing the budget deficit (almost $17K now) will mean CUCC can keep changing lives!

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE NEWS
End of summer Coffee Sale! Now through October all of our in stock coffees are ON SALE - $1 OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES – just $7 a bag! A deal! Starting in November, prices will increase on the coffee products to $9 a bag to increase our outreach to our overseas troops through the Holy Joe’s Café Ministry. But note that all of our coffees are 12 to 16 ounce bags (except for French Roast), which compare favorably to supermarket prices.

OUR CURRENT SELECTIONS:
French Roast and French Roast Decaf (10 oz).
Breakfast Blend
Salvadoran
Breakfast Blend and Congo BEANS
Keurig single serve French Roast, Unwind Decaf, & Breakfast Blend

A fresh order will arrive for November. I really like the Breakfast Blend flavor, and we will add African Roots, Colombian, and Sister’s Blend.

HOLY JOE’S CAFÉ MINISTRY
We last sent 3 cases of coffee to our troops overseas in January 2017! Contributing your spare change in the “green coffee cup” helps so we can send more. Plus, all profits from our sales also go to buy coffee for this ministry that offers our troops overseas coffee, comfort, and counsel through the ministry of our military chaplains at forward operating bases and outposts.

Ron Rak, “rak_roll@yahoo.com” Coffee comments appreciated!

Reaching Pastor Rebecca
If I’m not at the church, I might be out visiting, in a meeting, or writing a sermon.
Leave a message at the office at 719-395-2544, call my cell at 719-252-6890, or email me at revbecca@icloud.com.
Feel free to set up an appointment by phone or email.

The Faith Education Team
Develop a passion for learning.
If you do, you never cease to grow.
Anthony J. D’Angelo

Adult Education
Over the past two months, the Faith Education Team has focused on our Sunday morning Adult Education Class asking important questions about pertinent topics, needs, and desires of the congregation regarding learning, and best dates and times for offering classes and discussions. The team welcomes the input of the congregation regarding topics of importance to them. Join us Sundays at 9:00am in the Adult Ed. room for “Conversations That Matter” to discuss faith, life, scripture themes, and upcoming Sunday messages with Pastor Rebecca.

Children’s Church
Thanks to Alice Wolters for ordering the fall curriculum Deep Blue for Children’s Church and for scheduling teachers for each Sunday. We’re glad to welcome back the children who are enjoying the lessons and projects.

Rebecca,
Welcome back! Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful congregation with me. It has been a joy and a privilege to walk with them for this chapter. I pray that your time away has been restful and reinvigorating and the season you’re entering is healing for everyone involved. God’s richest blessing on your ministry among these precious people.

YEEHAW!!!! Roundup Sunday on September 15th was a bust-kickin’ good time! Here the young'uns welcomed Pastor Rebecca back with song, dance, and hugs! Gabby, Ryan, and Skyler — we love you!

Grace, Mercy, Peace - Malory

Dear UCC,
Thanks for the birthday card. It has been a good summer. I am doing well and Aunt Ruth’s cat clearly had made herself at home and is fat and happy. It took awhile to get through all that matted fur but there turned out to be a pretty little girl underneath it all.

Linda Swanson

- Grace, Mercy, Peace - Malory
CUCU Council Minutes September, 2019

General Business and Reports
Minutes from the August 21 Council meeting as prepared by Kathy Roman were reviewed for accuracy and comments. Rebecca noted a one word correction. Ann/Arlene moved to accept the minutes as corrected; motion passed.

Clerk’s Report: Ron Rak reported no changes in the congregation since the August 21 meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Cindy and Bill presented summary data from the August Financial Report, noting that contributions year-to-date were under budget by 13% to 14%, and expenses were over budget by about 1%. They suggested some options for encouraging increased contributions from the congregation, which may be presented at the end of September Congregational Meeting or in a letter to all members. Window Project receipts to date were $26,850. There was discussion over what to do with projected excess window project receipts. It was agreed that we should wait another month since there is considerable trimming finishing work and valances or curtains to be added to complete the project.

Pastor’s Report: Rebecca briefly summarized accomplishments of her sabbatical, noting that a detailed report will be presented in future church newsletters.

Moderator’s Report: Marge noted that the Sept 29th Congregational Meeting leadership will be shared between Conference Minister Erin Gilmore and Rebecca. The worship agenda will include a dialogue sermon, and the meeting will be a cafe style luncheon with speakers up front.

Continuing Business
Windows Installation Progress. Ron Hassell reported that the last window will be installed on September 19. Interior trim will be cut and stained right after, and the exterior trim will be ordered. Ron Erickson encouraged us to pass the word to assemble a team on the 20th to complete the project.

Update on Photo Directory progress. Ann noted that we need to find 6 more people to sign up for photos for the October 14 sitting by Friday Sept 20th. It was suggested that Grace Church be contacted right away to see if they may have some volunteers.

New Business
Fall Celtic Retreat. A fall Celtic Retreat with Brad & Rita Berglund at CUCU is being organized. The retreat dates are November 8, 9, & 10, which will blend into the Sunday worship on the 10th. There will be a $10 registration fee, which includes a luncheon prepared by Simple Eatery. We have two months to promote the program to the congregation.

Team Reports and Updates
Worship Team: Betsy said that the immediate emphasis will be on the Sunday September 22nd combined Rebecca Welcome Back ice cream social and Birthday Sunday at the Fellowship Hour.

Outreach Team: Helen spoke for the Outreach Team, reporting on the Coffee Program, continued support for our Global Ministries student, and the Backpack Program. Merilee added that Backpack was currently serving 45 packs a week and the program was proceeding with good support. The Sunday October 13 service will be officiated by a pastor from Alamosa’s La Puente who will inform the congregation of the services and offered by La Puente to the San Luis Valley. Continued support for the Heifer Program is planned in a presentation in the Sunday December 8 service.

Stewardship/Visioning Team: Ann summarized discussions from the team’s last meeting that an emphasis needs to be placed on encouraging church members to increase contributions, both by inviting friends and community members to come to our church and increasing personal giving.

Finance and Budget Team: Bill and Cindy expressed hope that 2020 budget requests from all teams will be received by early October, so they can prepare a preliminary church budget by the end of October. A draft budget will then be available for a November Council discussion. The final budget will then be approved at the December Council meeting. Bill then presented some problems of increasing contributions from the aging and dwindling congregation, emphasizing that our church may not be sustainable in five years with giving. Several models from current successful efforts in other institutions were presented to foster a discussion of how our church might best proceed to increase giving. Several ideas were discussed, in summary: 1) The church Financial Secretary might send a letter to the 15 highest contributing congregants showing amounts given to provide some real comparisons; 2) Encourage a “nameless pledge card” to get people invested in the church; 3) solicit pledges for specific functions such as a “month of child care” or “the cost of four months of Sunday worship service”; 4) foster the thought of “Why I give” instead of “What I give”, i.e., “How much of a priority is this church to me?” and that we “Need to give from the heart”. The Stewardship Team will take these ideas into their next meeting discussions.

Facilities Team: Ron Hassell noted that the church gas use year-to-date is at budget, and there are three more months of the year to go. Ideas for energy savings were offered. There were continued issues with final billings from the change of the trash removal service, and final bill costs for the parsonage well pump lift that are being contested. New maintenance issues include: 1) Safety issues with the aging cottonwood trees between the church and parsonage and considerations for trimming or removal; 2) exterior staining touches needed; 3) plans for improving the front doors lighting; 4) designing an intercom system to connect the rear of the church with the front door access.

Faith Education Team: Arlene/Ron Erickson reported that a new curriculum was ordered for the Children’s Sunday Church. There are continuing problems with scheduling facilitators for the Children’s Church to be dealt with.

The Sunday Adult Study is still requesting ideas for the curriculum, although an initial plan is in place to allow start up on September 29th. A couple of books are ordered for consideration.

Affiliated Organizations and Committees
Women’s Missionary Society: Merilee reported that the first meeting for the fall is September 23.

Boy Scout Troop: Merilee noted that the troop currently has only five members. She requested that a Boy Scouts Info sign be permanently placed in proximity of the church sign board across from the post office to attract attention from the public to help increase membership. Kathy/Kay moved that a sign be allowed to be posted by the Scout Troop to invite prospective members to attend post-meetings. Motion approved.

SEA Annual Meeting at CUCU: Rebecca noted that the annual meeting is scheduled at CUCU on October 19th, from 10 – 2 pm. A luncheon meeting is planned. More information will be published in the church newsletter.

Team Structure and Operation: A round robin discussion of the current team structure and operations ensued to determine if the church will continue with the new system or will there be an extension of the current mandate for another year before making a decision? Marge noted that this will be put on the October Council agenda. This will include discussion of how the Bylaws will be modified if the system is approved.

Prayer Concerns/Adjournment.
The meeting was adjourned with a parting prayer at 9:20pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 16 at 7:00pm. A Congregational Meeting is scheduled at church on September 29.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

OUR VERY OWN NAN BOHE!

Columbine Manor Care Center resident Nancy Bohe is surrounded by kids from the Salida Boys & Girls Club Friday during Adopt-a-Grandparent Day. From left are Taylor Ebuna, 9, Ruby Kaisner, 8, Bohe and Gunier Kintgen, 11.

The story of the year at the Columbine Manor Care Center was the impact of the Adopt-A-Grandparent Day that was held the first week of September. Sixteen kids from the Salida Boys & Girls Club visited Columbine Manor Care Center Friday [August 30, 2019] to visit residents and celebrate Adopt-a-Grandparent Day.

*About 10-20 kids visit the center about once a month, Brian Beaulieu, executive director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County, said, and the goal is for them to make a few special friends.

*During the Friday visit the kids and residents spent time drawing with chalk and telling jokes. “Gunier Kintgen, 11, told a joke about two muffins sitting in an oven. The first muffin turned to the other and said, “Good grief, it’s hot in here.” The second muffin said, “Good grief, a talking muffin?” Kintgen said it brought the house down.

*“Gunier Kintgen said he was treated well from the moment he walked in the door.

*Taylor Ebuna, 9, spent a lot of time talking with resident Nancy Bohe. Ebuna said she learned that Bohe’s favorite color is blue and her favorite animal is a dog. Ebuna drew Bohe a picture of a blue elephant and a portrait of her.

*Ebuna said she was eating snacks and having a lot of fun.

*The kids have been getting more comfortable as the visits progress, Beaulieu said, and the center residents look forward to the visits. He said the kids and residents have been able to form long-lasting friendships though the visits.