

*Congregational  
United Church of Christ*

*Sunday Schedule*

*9:00am Conversations that Matter Discussion Group*

*10:00am Worship Service*

*& Children's Church*

*11:00am Coffee Hour*

217 Crossman Ave.; Mailing: 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

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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.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



**News and Views**  
Congregational United Church of Christ  
December, 2019



**MODERATOR'S MOMENT**

**"LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY"**

"Somehow not only at Christmas but all the long year through the JOY that you give to others, is the JOY that comes back to you."

I saw a great deal of JOY and HAPPINESS the day of our 93rd Annual Bazaar as people rushed into the church to see all the beautifully handcrafted and homemade treasures that had been prepared for the big day. Beautiful quilts, hand-knit, crocheted and embroidery items, nativity scenes, aprons, wooden projects, even two snowmen from our craftsman Bob Smith, who was with us in spirit. That was only the beginning, for in the fellowship hall, a beautifully prepared luncheon was served of BBQ beef brisket, homemade chicken soup and chili, and homemade pies. The candy, baked goods, and jelly drew many customers, as well as the Treasures and Collectables, Books, and Christmas Rooms. The tradition lives on with a big Thank You to Janet Steiner, the coordinator, and all those who contributed in so many ways.

The beautiful quilt that so many women had worked on was won by Frank Campbell, of Serendipity Yarns, who deeply appreciated not only the beauty of the quilt and the workmanship, but also the historical significance of the pattern. The hand-carved deer bench by Ron Erickson was won by Pam Simpson, who was joyous for this addition to her home. We welcomed people from Buena Vista and the wider area to this wonderful event. Well done and kudos to everyone!

As we now cross the threshold to Advent Season, we enter the time of longer nights and shorter days, of Christmas trees and angels, caroling and gift giving, prime rib or ham for Christmas dinner, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" or "A Christmas Carol," fulfillment or emptiness, amazement or doubt.

This is my favorite time of year, I love everything about the Christmas season, especially decorating the Christmas tree, baking Scandinavian cookies and breads, planning the meals, wrapping the gifts, Christmas Eve Services at the church, the music and the scriptures that tell the mystery of the greatest gift that God could give, the gift of a child, the gift of God's son—Jesus!

From the Gospel of Luke, we read the narrative of "The Shepherds and The Angels" which begins, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find the child wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth!"

May it be so and may the Christ live in you!

~Marge Erickson, Moderator



## PASTOR'S ARTICLE, December, 2019

Welcome to Advent. Days of darkness and gestation, of going deep into the soil and foundation of our faith and life together. Days of coming to the Manger, coming to Jesus, the Light of the world, and looking toward the Light in this season and the next, and the new year. Advent calls us as individuals and a community to focus on God's ways and works, to keep in mind that at any moment we might come face to face with Jesus Christ, and to intentionally cultivate a sense of divine presence and purpose so as to be ready to respond faithfully to whatever comes our way. Advent calls us to pay attention to the divine in the midst of the mundane so as to live in ways that reflect whose and who we are—or at least whose we are and who we want to be.

Blessings on your Advent, CUCC, Pastor Rebecca.

A blessing for all pilgrims on the walk of faith:

Blessed are you who can question your own assumptions and listen with an open mind; *you will receive new insights beyond your imagining.*

Blessed are you who suffer the attacks of others to stand up for what is right; *you will not be alone, for your courage will inspire others to rise.*

Blessed are you who build friendships as well as justice; *even when you lose an issue, you will have strengthened the foundation of your community.*

Blessed are you who take delight in people; *you will not be bored in meetings.*

Blessed are you who agitate the placid waters of complacency; *you will create waves in the inertia of privilege, and will know the thrill of riding the surf of change.*

Blessed are you who lead with enthusiasm and confidence, resisting the temptation to shame the apathetic or self-absorbed; *you will inspire curiosity and hope in others.*

Blessed are you who play as well as work; *you will have more fun, build more energy, and will draw the powers of the impish to your cause.*

Blessed are you who ask for help in your role as leaders; *you will find teachers at every turn, and your work will remain interesting and alive.*

Blessed are you who, when wrongfully attacked, find safe outlets for your righteous rage; *your mind will be clear, your decisions strategic, and your progress will not be derailed by the backlash of the fearful.*

Blessed are you who do not demonize your opponents; *your eyes and your hearts will be open.*

Blessed are you who sing and dance; *you will find energy and joy to lift you on your journey.*

Blessed are you who offer thanks and praise five-fold for every critique; *your children will want to visit after they are grown, people will want to serve on your committees, and friends will be interested in your opinions.*

Blessed are you who study the rhythms of history; *you will have knowledge with which to shape the future.*

Blessed are you who work in coalition rather than in principled isolation; *you will meet great people, learn things you didn't realize you needed to know, and have partners for the journey when you are in the lead, or in need.*

Blessed are you who volunteer to be secretary and take good minutes; *your words will become history, and your efforts will move steadily forward rather than running absent-mindedly over thoroughly discussed ground.*

Blessed are you who discover, train and encourage young leaders; *you will see your work expand and grow beyond your own time and talent.*

Blessed are you who can change your mind; *you are still alive.*

Blessed are you who will not let the perfect be the enemy of the good; *you will see progress in your lifetime.*

Blessed are you with an active spiritual life; *you will find perspective and comfort in times of loss and betrayal, and will rise without cynicism to meet the challenges of a new day.*

Blessed are you who live from a place of gratitude; *for you will know the meaning of Life.*

- By Lindi Ramsden (used with permission)

**Pastor Rebecca would love to connect with you!**



Make an appointment or request a visit to assure her undivided attention.

Leave a message at the office at 719-395-2544, call her cell at 719-252-6890, or email to [revbecca@icloud.com](mailto:revbecca@icloud.com).

### 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!**



### CUCC CARES FOR CREATION

Please don't put cardboard boxes in the trash/dumpster. Instead, put them in the office or give them to Rebecca



### FEEDBAG TOTES!

What a cool reduce/reuse/ecycle project!

We are collecting feed bags and duct tape and hoping to plan a bag-making party in January. Let me know if you want to be part of this fun endeavor to replace single-use plastic bags with these great totes. Bring bags to Pastor Rebecca's office (or garage!) We'll take donations of duct tape too!

Watch this video --it's easy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JepJM6IF2uc>

**Care of  
Creation**



### 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

**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 (303) 412-9121  
Life Care Center of Westminster  
7751 Zenobia Court, Westminster, CO 80030

Jean Brody (303) 720-9595  
Sterling House #505  
8271 South Continental Divide Road  
Littleton, CO 80127

Lindsey Fagerberg Close  
c/o 308 West Mount Vernon Ave.  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Elvin Frantz (719) 395-6982  
30535 CR 371, Buena Vista  
c/o Kathy Garrett  
PO Box 1106, Buena Vista, CO 81211-1106

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

Betty Gwynn (719) 395-2966  
29155 CR 331, Buena Vista, CO 81211

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

Al & 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 - Columbine Manor  
530 W. 16th Street, Salida, CO 81201

Gerry 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

Glen & Joan Wilder (719) 395-8722  
29531 CR 372A, Buena Vista, CO 81211

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



**CUCC Special Dates**

**BIRTHDAYS**

December 1—Teresa Roorda  
December 2—Doyle Nyberg  
December 7—Jean Brody  
December 7—Corey Tucker  
December 10—Christopher Colvin  
December 12—Daniel Daugherty  
December 12—Dennis Daugherty  
December 19—Jaden Proernick  
December 21—Norm Holloway  
December 24—Jean Buster  
December 25—Noel Ekin  
December 26—Betty Gwynn  
December 28—Verona Taggart  
December 29—Marge Erickson  
December 30—Paula Dylan  
December 30—Mary Ann Hoyt

**ANNIVERSARIES**

December 10—Carl & Liz Hansen  
December 19—Bob & Glynnette Smith  
December 20—Les & Mary Messamer  
December 21—Frank & Linda Carpenter  
December 31—Elvin & Pat Benton



*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**

- Norma Hughes (aunt of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
- Brooke Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
- Kaylynne Pomfret and Blakely-Grace Pomfret—Strength & Healing
- Midori Matsuda—Healing & Strength
- The Family of Bernie Robinson—Comfort
- Linette Williams—Healing
- Mardy Cason (brother of Roger Cason)—Healing
- Dwight Griggs—Healing
- Brendan Stuart (niece of Molly Stuart)—Healing
- Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing
- Kayleigh & Family (friends of Barb Wilder)—Healing
- Jarron Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
- Lori Hagen (friend of Kay Allinger)—Healing
- Laurie Riggs—Healing
- Marcy Adams—Healing
- Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing
- Sarah Struthers—Healing
- Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing
- Gary Dennis (friend of Rhonda Funston)—Healing
- Pam Hughes—Healing
- Ali Lufkin—Healing
- Nan Bohe—Healing
- Roger Cason—Healing

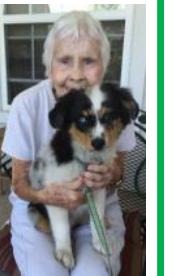


# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Communion Worship & Children's Church, 11am Coffee Hour	<b>2</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	<b>3</b> 8:30am TOPS-CH	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 1-3pm The Squad-AE	<b>6</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 3-4pm PEO Set-Up -FH	<b>7</b> 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7 9:30-11am PEO -FH, K 4pm Memorial Service for Chuck & Lou Tidd
<b>8</b> 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am-12:30pm Worship Team -#7 11:30am-1pm Faith Education Team-D 4-6pm Caroling	<b>9</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 9am-4:30pm Monarch Quilters-FH	<b>10</b> 8:30am TOPS-CH 10am-12pm Stew/Vis Team -AE 4:30-6:30pm Outreach Team -AE 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 1-3pm WMS 6-8pm Facilities Team -#7 6:30-8pm Finance Team 7pm AA-AE	<b>13</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 7-9:30pm Community Dance -FH	<b>14</b> 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7 10-11:30am District 22 Al-Anon Mtg. -#7
<b>15</b> 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am All-Church Intergenerational Christmas Program 11am Coffee Hour	<b>16</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 8:30am TOPS-CH	<b>17</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 8:30am TOPS-CH	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 1-3pm The Squad-AE 6pm Choir-CH 7pm Council-AE 7pm AA-AE	<b>20</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 4pm-6pm Vigil-S	<b>21</b> 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7
<b>22</b> 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour & Birthday Celebration	<b>23</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>OFFICE OPEN</b> 	<b>27</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 7pm AA-AE	<b>28</b> 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7
<b>29</b> 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	<b>30</b> 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE OPEN</b> 	<b>January 1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>Blue=Outside Group</b>	<b>AE=Adult Ed. Rm.</b> <b>CH=Choir Room</b> <b>D=Drama Room</b> <b>FH=Fellowship Hall</b> <b>K=Kitchen</b>	<b>RR=Rainbow Room</b> <b>S=Sanctuary</b> <b>#7=Room 7</b>



# View from the Mountain



## "The Essence of Auntie"

The essence of Auntie—that is what Thanksgiving is to me. It is a soft time, a quiet and peaceful time, a time that makes me feel loved.

It was and is a brailling time. I always am with those I love, sharing in good food, family stories, the proverbial afternoon nap, the time for touching.

Auntie, aged passed ninety, left this earth some thirty years ago. But her essence remains and is with me still.

Sitting in my recliner today I knew I wanted to talk about Thanksgiving. But every time I started to write, I was led to talk about our Auntie.

Auntie lived alone in a small log cabin-type house in the Ozark Mountains. She was fiercely independent, quick-witted, kind, and amazingly intelligent.

She went to school until she was twelve years old, at which time she and her twin sister, Ethel, went to work for the gentry. Sometimes I wondered what she could have accomplished had she been able to stay in school. But then I realized no school could have made her any smarter.

But the true essence of Auntie had to do with her heart and soul. She left her imprint on everything and everyone she touched.

First of all, the scent of Thanksgiving. Every Thanksgiving we all went to Auntie's house. When we opened her heavy front door we were enveloped in the musty, old, undusted odor as it mingled with the aroma from the iron pots and pans bubbling and baking on her ancient kitchen stove.

The next scent I still recall vividly was from her handmade patch quilts as we slipped between layers of them for our after-dinner nap. Breathing in these scents was like filling oneself with peace and love.

Then there was the sound of Thanksgiving—wood cracking in the woodstove, the muted thuds as we walked through her little house, and the delicate shifting of uneven floor boards, all combined with Auntie's laughter. It was sort of a cackle as she went from room to room and then when she played Rummy with the kids and always managed to let them win.

Thanksgiving tastes surpassed the finest restaurants. Her blend of herbs and a lifetime of cooking for the gentry all culminated at our Thanksgiving table. But what I taste to this very day is the taste of old-ness stirred with a loving hand. I still can taste it.

The scent of sight. Whenever I choose I can see in my mind's eye exactly what everybody and everything looked like every year. There were the narrow, steep stairs leading to two upstairs little bedrooms. Also there was the site of the trash pile we made in the back yard and then struck a match to.

I see Auntie's mole on her nose and her long, never-cut-but-once hair swept up in a loose bun. I see her hand slap her leg whenever she laughed, and I see the quiet, sweet tears in her eyes when it was time for us to leave.

The essence of Auntie is like a symbol to me. I remember how I felt every year on the way back home. Everybody was quiet and I tried to memorize the few days we had just so enjoyed.

Before leaving, I always ran my fingers across the rich colored wood table, the nubbiness of the chair seats. I loved to run my fingers through her white hair and to feel the coolness of old china plates as we washed and dried them together.

All of these things were etched into my very soul and the same feelings bless me every year about Thanksgiving time. I can touch the essence of Auntie all over again. It is my prayer that each of you feel the same joy and peace.

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

~ Jean Brody



## Kudos Kolumn

Many thanks to all those who pitched in to make the Celtic Spirit Weekend Retreat a success! Many from CUCC and the wider community enjoyed an inspiring and meaningful weekend together. Thank you for being with us!

Merilee and the Boy Scouts who donated several sleeping bags from their shed to the new homeless shelter in Salida.

And continuing thanks for all the Bazaar and Windows help, participation, support, and everything else!

## THANK YOU TO WMS FROM MARY MESSAMER

Thank you so much for the cute get well card.

I've still to wear the orthopedic shoe until Nov. 20.

Foot well—can wear regular shoes "out" but must continue with the "shoe" in the house along with using the walker—hope to be back with cane soon.

Thanks so much—Mary Messamer

## THANKS FROM NELSONS

Dear, Dear Pastor Rebecca and CUCC,

Reggie sure loved his birthday wishes from you. He does not like to write so I have to do it. He just had surgery on his bladder, they froze cancer spots and we are extra thankful he is doing well. We both smiled when we read about your 50th Anniversary celebration for True Grits in Ridgeway, CO. I am sorry I am so late in thanking you for Reggie's card but this old lady was in the hospital and I am extra thankful to be home now.

We are so thankful that you still think of us and we say a special prayer of thanks and send our love,

Reggie & Judy

## THANK YOU FROM LA PUENTE

Thank you for your donation & for being part of our community. This is an exciting time for us. We believe everyone should have a holiday meal to share with family. The food bank has received 300 turkeys to date, & we hope to distribute 600 boxes. The Thanksgiving dinner at the Shelter is coming up as well. We extend love & good wishes to all.

La Puente Staff & Volunteers

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY—THE 93RD ANNUAL BAZAAR!

Our 93rd Annual Bazaar set-up week started with snow, snow, wind and cold. Workers still showed up and continued with their activities. The weather cleared for a warm Saturday. A **huge** thank you to everyone who helped in all the places where help was needed.

With only three shoppers waiting at 9:00am, it was a nervous start, but the attendance stayed steady with generous shoppers. The total money was a nice amount to fund supported projects.

The success of the bazaar must be accredited to so many former chairmen doing such terrific work. Thanks for all the years of great guidance!

The Civil War quilt "Women's Voices" was won by Frank Campbell of Serendipity Yarns, a Civil War re-enactor who couldn't have been more thrilled. Ron Erickson's hand carved hall bench was happily won by Pam Simpson.

~Chairman, Janet Steiner



## FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- Trash Service: A certified letter with documentation has been sent to Waste Management protesting their continued attempt to charge us for a "Termination Fee". No response noted as of this date.
  - Windows Project: Roller shades for sanctuary are installed and Delmar is planning to meet with Janet to finalize plans for the valances. The team agreed to ask Janet to order the same kind of roller shades for the three windows in the Fellowship Hall.
  - Front Door Security: The video security system is ordered and will be installed as soon as it arrives. It was decided to order the Ring system for both front a back doors as it will allow staff to observe and ID visitors at the doors prior to entry.
  - Carpet Cleaning: The carpets have all been cleaned.
  - Tree trimming: Still working on options on this project.
  - Fire Detectors: All smoke detector batteries will be replaced at one time to keep the changing of them consistent and the date noted.
- Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

## Worship Team Notes

The WT would like to encourage you to note the special events in December as laid out in the Celebration Calendar elsewhere in this newsletter, including Christmas Caroling on December 8 from 4-6pm (meet at the church), the Prayer Vigil from 4:00pm-6:00pm on December 20, and the Candlelight/Communion Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm December 24. Also please note that the Heifer Living Gift Market has been postponed until the Lenten season.

## The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

The Faith Education Team is working with Janet Steiner preparing for the Christmas Program to be presented on Sunday, December 15. We're grateful for Janet's leadership and to Ruby Hamilton for assisting and working with the children.

Alice Wolters continues to recruit leadership for Children's church. We're grateful that Donna Maloney and Billie Branch have joined others in leading Children's Church and would welcome others to join the teaching team. We guarantee help in learning the procedure and lesson structure. We will continue with the same curriculum in the first quarter of 2020. Alice will order and create the lesson schedule.

Our team would like to pull together all the adult education offerings within our church and determine how to keep our members aware of the multiple offerings and how they fit into the team structure (if they do) and where their costs fit into the overall budget. We are grateful for all the opportunities offered to keep us all learning and sharing.

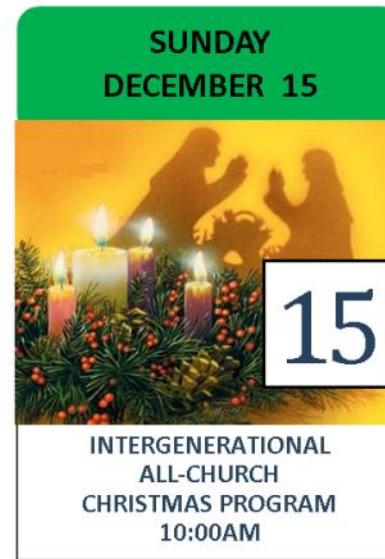
### CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER — Sundays, 9:00-9:45, Adult Ed Room, CUCC

Join this lively and interesting conversation each week as we gather to talk about scriptures, upcoming sermon topics, current events and all sorts of things that matter! December's Theme: "Seasons of Faith That Matter."

Arlene Waldorf, Chair

## PRAYER VIGIL CHANGE

Please note that the Christmas Prayer Vigil is a drop-in event for quiet, contemplative time between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. You do not need to sign up for any particular time.



# CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



**CHUCK & LOU TIDD MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
Saturday, December 7  
4:00pm  
CUCC Sanctuary  
with reception to follow

Please celebrate with us the lives of CUCC members Chuck & Lou Tidd, who both passed away this past year.

**TELLS**  
**Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society**  
**Tuesdays, 7:00pm held at members' homes**

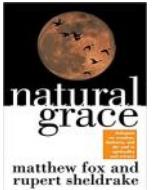


**All women are invited!**

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

The group is reading "The Life of an Ordinary Woman" by Anne Ellis.

See Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list.



**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 tenant of Original Blessing and Sheldrake is a biologist. They discuss science and religion each from his own background.

The sessions last one to one and one-half hours and are open to men of CUCC and the community.

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

*We are Family*



## WINDOWS UPDATE

Here are the new blinds. There are valances and window treatments planned, also. More news to come!



## Outreach/Community & World Team News—December greetings!

Several on-going projects:

Peanut Butter, etc. for the local Mission: Thanks much for bringing items on the 1st Sundays.

Backpack Program: Cash donations are always welcome.

Fair Trade Coffee Sales: As well as coffee, don't forget to check out the tea & chocolate items every Sunday.

Angelo: Our smiling Filipino teenager still needs school tuition. See the Bob Dwyer jar in the narthex on Sundays.

The Rocky Mountain Conference Socksgiving campaign was a great success—CUCC collected 300 pairs of new socks! The Resource Center/Homeless Shelter in Salida will enthusiastically receive them for Christmas stockings. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! FYI—socks are the single most asked-for item at homeless shelters.

Curious about the "5 for 5" campaign which our denomination uses to do Outreach/Mission work? The "5" refers to five offerings/donations which UCC congregations collect locally at various times during the calendar year. They are OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission), One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. Yes, your BV church is a "5 for 5" church. You all give very generously in the pew envelopes and the Outreach Team does include all five in its annual budget. The best way to understand thoroughly the purpose/goal of each offering is to access the online site for UCC.org and search for "5 for 5 Offerings."

### The Heifer Project Will Be Supported Next Spring!

A great many of us, we know, enjoyed our returned support last December of the long-running Heifer Project. In light of the especially encouraging response of our congregation, we **must** continue fostering this worldwide outreach! **But** with end-of-year church budget concerns and the Christmas Fund approaching, we don't want anyone to be overwhelmed.

So, we are going to move our support of the Heifer Project to March, as part of our church's Lenten celebrations. We think this will be a perfect complement to the sentiments of the season: reflection on the deprived, especially the poor, many of whom don't know where their next meal is coming from; what personal sacrifices we can make for the common good; doing our small part for the betterment of mankind.

The Outreach Team will be blending the program into one of our weekly Lenten Soup Suppers. We will already be breaking bread in neighborly camaraderie—what better time to be positively thinking of the less fortunate of the world and what we can do to improve their lot?

We **do** want to mention that the Heifer Project is currently offering to match all contributions to the program, and we know that several people like to donate to the project in the name of a loved one especially during the Christmas season of giving. We don't want to discourage any of this planning and support on your part, so please go ahead as planned; you don't have to wait for us!

## STEWARSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

Again this month we discussed possible long term solutions to end the recurring financial shortfall. The topic of pledging came up and was eliminated as a possibility for several reasons. As individuals/families we need to review our specific situation and determine what we want/are able to invest in our church not only financially, but with our time and abilities, as well.

Next we discussed the response we received from congregants to the challenge letter sent to team members and officers.

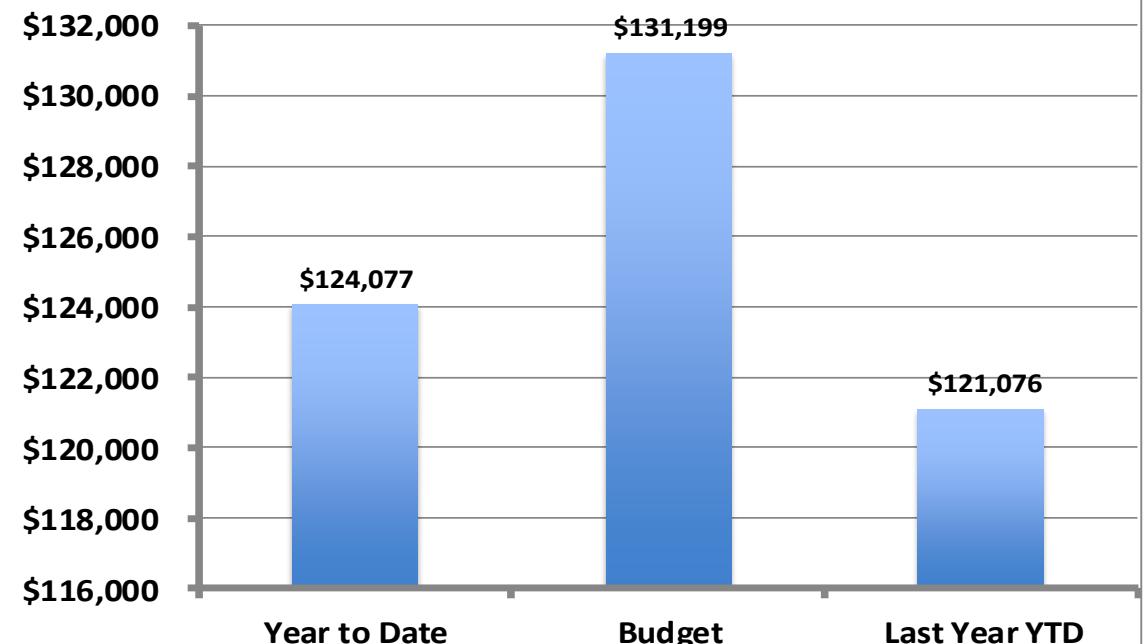
We experienced different reactions and some people made suggestions that would reduce expenses and/or increase income. Examples are decreasing building use, encouraging groups who use the church to donate more, discontinuing our matching mission money collected, reducing the pastor's salary, and having a suggestion box for congregants to use as they have ideas to submit.

Ultimately the discussion moved to suggesting positive approaches and solutions. Possibilities include:

- 1.) increasing efforts to share our message and church family experience in the community through Facebook and private conversations,
- 2.) improving education of the congregation about the difference between donations to restricted funds for specific projects (Windows, mission funds, Backpacks, Boy Scouts), events funded by grants such as Rebecca's sabbatical and the general fund that pays basic operating expenses and salaries, and
- 3.) emphasizing a positive philosophy rather than a "gloom and doom" approach.

Ann Condra, Chair

## General Contributions through October, 2019



### LIVING & GIVING with INTENTION:

#### DID YOU KNOW:

- 1) CUCC's Family Windows were funded by generous donations from near and far? No budget dollars were needed!
- 2) CUCC is a generous congregation, with great support from the wider community? When people are made aware of our funding needs to continue mission and ministry, response is very positive!
- 3) The Celtic Spirit Retreat and all portions of the "Congregation's Sabbatical Journey" are fully funded by the Sabbatical Grant from Lilly? Again, no budget dollars were needed!

#### CUCC Finance and Budget Team December News

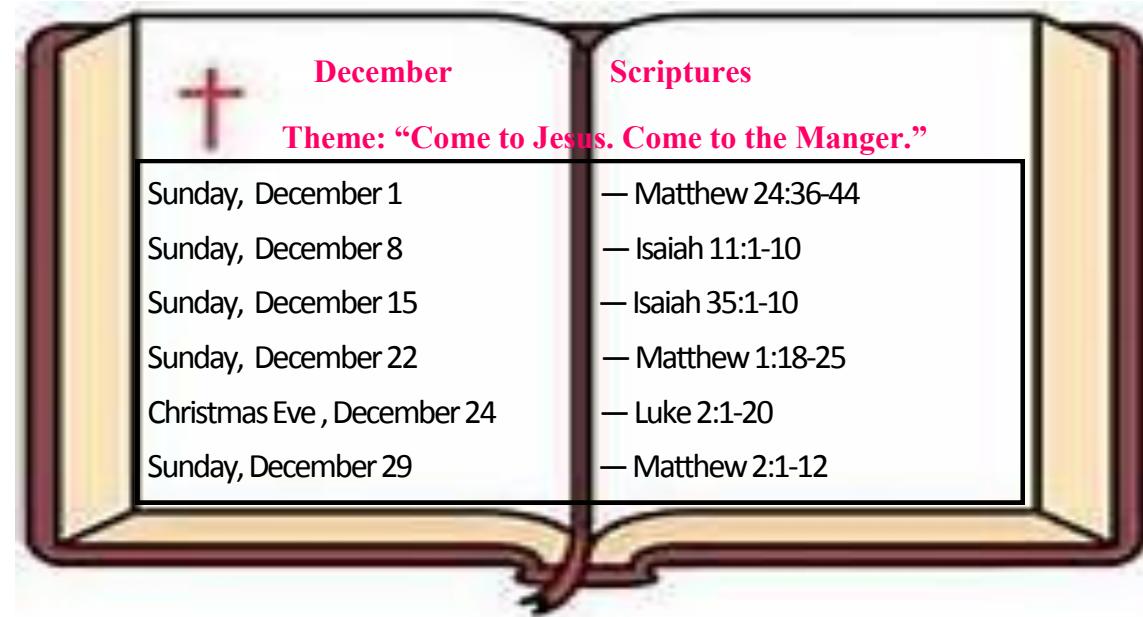
In October the various teams submitted budget figures for their section of the budget. Lesley and Cindy also entered in line items for the Financial section comparing year-to-date figures and factoring in any increases that we might incur. There were only a few line items to be discussed, those being salaries.

#### WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

On Thursday, November 21, the Women's Missionary Society held their election of officers. Merilee Daugherty will be President, Rhonda Funston the Vice-President, Cindy Helm the Secretary, and Kay Allinger the Treasurer. We turned in our Blessing Boxes, with the funds going to missions. We also listened to the bazaar wrap-up. So far we have taken in \$7,270.81 in proceeds for net income of \$6,783.96.

Our final meeting of the year will be Thursday, December 12, 1:00pm. Our speaker will be Shanae Diaz, La Puente's Volunteer Coordinator, and our officers will be installed. As our contribution to the All-Church Program on December 15, we will bake and donate cookies for Fellowship Hour.

## PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



#### ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 10:00AM**

REHEARSALS AT 6:00PM ON  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 &  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

SINGERS & WANNA-BE SINGERS  
WELCOME AND INVITED!

ALL SINGERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.  
PLEASE CONSIDER BEING PART OF THIS  
SPECIAL EVENT!



#### "CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER" ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP at CUCC! Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room

Discuss faith, life, scripture themes, and upcoming Sunday messages with Pastor Rebecca. Talk about things that matter and offer creative input for Sunday worship!

#### 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.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**CUCC ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26  
11:15am**

**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 2**

**Please plan on attending this very  
important event.**

**Help make CUCC truly yours!**

#### 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](http://www.bvcucc.org/home/Sunday-messages).
- ◆ To receive the CUCC weekly email blast, contact the office at 719-395-2544 or email to [office.bvcucc@gmail.com](mailto:office.bvcucc@gmail.com).
- ◆ Nancy is in the front office M, W, F from 9-2, 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.*

## CUCC Council Minutes

November 20, 2019

**Present:** Kay Allinger, Ann Condra, Merilee Daugherty, Helen Duncan, Marj Erickson, Ron Erickson, Lesley Fagerberg, Barb Groy, Cindy Helm, Rebecca Poos, Betsy Neas, Ron Rak, Kathy Roman, Arlene Waldorf, Bill Waldorf, Mark Wolters, Vivian York.

**Welcoming and Opening Prayer:** Moderator Marj Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:15pm, opening with a unison recital of Psalm 23.

### General Business and Reports

**Minutes:** Minutes from the October 16 Meeting prepared by Merilee were reviewed. Kathy presented new information from further research of the church by-laws and Roberts Rules of Order about voting rights of ex-officio members present at Council. The church by-laws always supersede Roberts Rules. Article VII of the by-laws defines ex-officio members as the Pastor and church delegates to the Rocky Mountain Conference and Southeast Association. Ex-officio members do not have voting rights, and may not make motions for Council consideration. This clarification supersedes the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence of the Minutes section of the October 16 Minutes.

**Clerk's Report:** Ron noted that changes reported in the October Council Minutes concerning Steve & Kacie Wheeler and Bob & Marilyn Frykholm were dutifully recorded in the Clerk's records.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cindy presented two letters for filing from the Auditor dated August 20, 2019 summarizing what was done, and follow up reporting responsibilities of the "Trustees" and Council. She gave an official notice of her desired resignation as Treasurer of CUCC to be effective at the Annual Meeting in January 2020. She expressed her willingness to work with her replacement from now until January 31, 2020. Council discussed the matter, and Bill expressed the church's appreciation for her service. Merilee moved/Ann seconded to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion passed.

**Moderator's Report:** Marj reported that the Celtic Spirit Weekend Retreat presented at CUCC by Brad and Rita Berglund went very well and was well attended. Rebecca added that the weekend was paid for by the Sabbatical grant, including the presenters' lodging and all food provided at the retreat. Marj continued noting that a search is ongoing for a chair for the Nominating Committee. She also asked Council for comments on the quarterly congregational meetings that were diligently held this year. Council responded positively, and she suggested that these meetings will continue in 2020.

### Continuing Business

**"Our Match Challenge"** – Bill Waldorf: Bill noted that a plan was instituted last month to overcome an anticipated \$8,000 church budget deficit. To date, \$5,850 is promised by church leaders. A follow-up letter will be sent out soon by the Finance Team to church members, noting the response and encouraging a matching response. The overall goal is to close the year with a balanced budget.

**Lifetouch Directory** – Ann reported that an update on the illustrated church directory was not available before this meeting, but was expected momentarily. Nancy Best will get the information and put it in the Friday email blast.

### Team Reports and Updates

**Outreach Team** – Helen reported that the Backpack Program is currently providing 50 packs. The high school is faithfully using the Chaffee Green-provided reusable cloth bags. The elementary school is using brown paper bags for different reasons to maintain high participation in the program. Support for the Global Ministries Child Sponsor Program is on budget, although Global Ministries increased the support cost by \$100 this year. The Socksgiving Program that ended Sunday, November 17 collected 300 pairs of new socks, which were donated to Salida's Resource Center/Homeless Shelter. She informed Council that the planned Heifer Project support this December was rescheduled in March to coincide with the Lenten season. Kay clarified that donations to the Heifer program should be given directly to CUCC and one payment will be sent to Heifer, whereby no individual personal information will be transferred to Heifer.

**Stewardship/Visioning Team** – Ann noted that a lot of ideas were discussed on stewardship, finances, and participation in church activities. The consensus is to get people involved more personally in church activities and not to focus heavily on financial aspects.

**Finance and Budget Team** – Bill and Leslie. A summary sheet of the 2020 draft church budget was passed out for review and comment before the next Council meeting. The 2020 budget is approximately \$5,000 less than the 2019. Discussion of the major changes that made the \$5,000 reduction possible was made. The revised budget will then have to be approved by Council at the December Council Meeting.

**Facilities Team** – Mark reported that the windows portion of the project was totally completed and remaining work included shades and valances for various windows as desired. The project budget is currently in the black and is anticipated to be completed with excess funds. Other projects include a soon to be installed new front and rear door communication system whereby audio-visual cameras will allow visitors to call persons in the church to gain entrance. Snow removal procedural details were also being worked out with contractors.

**Faith Education Team** – Arlene commented that a Christmas program involving children is currently the main focus. Children's summer programs will be the next priority. On an unrelated topic, she emphasized that the congregation should give more attention to visitors and remembering the names of returning visitors. To assist in that endeavor she passed out a list of recent visitors.

**Worship Team** – Barb reported that Nursery toys have recently been cleaned. Hanging of the Greens is ready and scheduled for November 24 as an evening event with soup supper served. The traditional Christmas prayer vigil will go on this season, but with reduced hours: 4:00pm-6:00pm. Comments were solicited on the chair pattern in the sanctuary, since recent Sunday services used varied horseshoe patterns instead of the "standard" row style. It was felt that the curved style helped create a greater sense of

community for smaller attendance. However, for larger services, the row style layout is required to accommodate everyone. And common to both arrangements, concerns for choir seating, audio-visual, pulpit use, communion, and musical presentation need to be considered.

### Affiliated Organizations and Committees

**Women's Missionary Society** – Merilee mentioned the upcoming meeting with elections and program tomorrow, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, the Agenda Calendar of Events should be corrected to show the next WMS meeting on December 12.

**All Church Bazaar** - Kay reported that the Church Bazaar has achieved a \$6,784 profit to date, although a few final bills and late sales receipts will be received in the next few days. The profit is only about \$600 less than last year's bazaar.

**Annual Employees Review.** – Staff Annual Reviews were held with all staff this month. Church leaders met with each staff person to discuss the past year and goals for the next year; job satisfaction, mutual support and equipment and supply needs. Report was made to the Finance Committee about the reviews and job satisfaction. Finance Committee then discussed possible raises and bonuses in light of the Budget preparation.

Bill and select members of the Pastoral Relations Committee noted several unresolved issues with the pianist such that an equitable contract for 2020 was not achieved. After discussion with Council, a motion was duly made and seconded that Teresa Roorda's contract be terminated due to irreconcilable differences, and Council approved the motion. Teresa will be properly notified of the decision both in person and in writing.

**Pastor's Report** – Rebecca notified the Clerk that properly signed statements of her agreed-upon 2020 Housing Allowance and Salary (presented at this meeting) must be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm with a heartfelt, compassionate, parting prayer from Marj.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 18 at 7:00pm.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

## CELTIC SPIRIT WEEKEND RETREAT!

What a wonderful, uplifting, spirit-filled weekend! On Nov. 8-10, over 50 people from CUCC and our community gathered at CUCC with Pilgrimage Leaders Brad & Rita Berglund.

We sang, danced, and basked in the beauty of creation in lands far and near. CUCC's choir sang a beautiful song about earth's gifts and beauty. The Berglunds led us in a fascinating exploration of Celtic spirituality and tradition, and Moderator Marge hosted a fabulous fellowship time around the table.

This congregational retreat was part of our Sabbatical Journey, funded by the Sabbatical Grant from Lilly.

From a neighboring church: "One vote for "Second Annual Celtic Weekend" this time next year! Thank you (or should I say "go raibh mile maith agat") for putting it together.

Many blessings,  
-Mike"



From community members:  
"We enjoyed our weekend with you. It gave us lots to think about and integrate into our experiences in Ireland and Scotland, as well as Spain. Much gratitude to you both for sharing."

~Sydney

