

**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

Like us on Facebook! Look for Congregational UCC Buena Vista

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



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



News and Views

Congregational United Church of Christ

November, 2019



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

"LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY"

Threshold Prayer for Entering a Sacred Space
Calm my mind. Open my heart. Fully present.
Let me enter the "Thin Spaces" within and without.
Brad Berglund

In recent years I have been asked by many people, "How did you become interested in "Celtic Christian Spirituality," and it is not an easy question to answer in a few words.

As a church fellowship, we have an extraordinary experience ahead on November 8, 9, and 10 to embrace two leaders who for 20 years have led groups of seekers or pilgrims to the Celtic lands that reveal much of the hidden history of Celtic Christianity. I have yet to discover why no pictures exist in the church history books of the Irish High Crosses, or the monastic sites on the banks of the Shannon River called Clonmacnois, or St. Kevin's monastic city and school at Glendalough. I'm still looking!

If you haven't read Thomas Cahill's book, "How the Irish Saved Civilization," it is a starting place to realize how the Irish monasteries saved many literary treasures from extinction when books and documents were being burned all across Europe. Dublin's archival library, The Long Room at Trinity College, holds many of these treasured writings, along with a display of the illuminated manuscripts of the four gospels called The Book of Kells. It is a miracle to behold how it could be preserved for us to see.

To be brief, I see my growth as a Christian disciple in three stages:

1) An awakening as child and young person that I was loved by Jesus, that God's own son gave his life for my soul, that I was precious to Christ, that I could give my life over as a disciple and I would be guided in my life decisions. I learned this at Sunday School and the summer youth camp, Tempel Hills Church Camp outside Yellowstone Park.

2) A second awakening was to a knowledge of God as Holy, All Powerful, Creator, Sustainer, Provider, and that I, as a woman, was created in the image of God. Genesis 1:27 reads "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. God blessed them!"

This understanding happened as I studied Liberation and Feminist Theology in the 1990's at United Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and with the help of new Biblical interpretation by Marcus Borg, John Crossan, Letty Russell, Joan Chittister and others, I began to read the scripture with new meaning and feelings that I was a beloved child of God.

3) A third awakening, which started in 1996 with travels to London, began at the Cathedral of St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Trafalgar Square in the heart of London's art museums and theater district. This cathedral, dedicated to St. Martin of Tours, celebrates the conversion of a Roman soldier to becoming a follower of Jesus. In a dream, Martin saw the face of Jesus as the face of a beggar to whom he had given one-half of his Roman cape for protection from the cold, and it changed his life forever. He founded a monastery in Tours, France, for the training of priests and monks.

This inspiring story of change of heart and mission led to my further exploration of the Cathedral's mission. In the undercroft of the church was a cafeteria and bookstore loaded with Celtic art, jewelry, and fabrics filled with Celtic symbols. I purchased the first of many Celtic books there—"Restoring the Woven Cord—Strands for the Church Today," by Michael Mitton. Some of the Saints whose stories are in this book I was familiar with because of a woman's book study group called "The Mystics" that I had met with for several years.

The spiritual practices that mean so much to my devotional life today, come from seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit whom I envision as a wild goose, in the Celtic tradition. As I try to imagine the next chapter of God's leading in my life, I'm praying the Holy Spirit will open our hearts to "Dancing With the Spirit" and many new learnings in the Celtic Spirit Retreat that we are about to embrace.

Cead mile Failte - "A 100,000 Welcomes" to this event!

Marge Erickson, Moderator

PASTOR'S ARTICLE, November, 2019

“The Christian Celts give us a model for living out a faith that is rooted in the Earth... Recognizing God's presence in soil and sky, the turning seasons, in beasts and plants. They continued to relate to the Earth with love and wonder.”

“MUCKING IS MY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE”

Yep! You read that right. Mucking, as in scooping up horse poop in a corral, is where I go to center, ground myself in the earth, and experience God's presence in soil and sky! Over the summer while on sabbatical, I explored many ways that people experience the Holy in the natural world. I focused on Celtic and Native American spiritual traditions and practices, but this notion can be found throughout the world and throughout history. As I explored, I found myself, every day, longing for my “outside with the animals time,” and found that I missed that special time when I was away from home. Yes, I even missed the chores! There's something deeply grounding about cleaning one's home and yard and caring for family members of all kinds. It roots us in what is core in our lives.

Now, you're probably thinking, yes, but that's a lot of poo-poo to be in the midst of—can that *really* be a spiritual practice, or is she full of something that can be found in a corral?! Yes, there's an aroma involved when cleaning a corral—but even that can be a part of one's prayer life. And yes, one can ponder all sorts of metaphors around “scooping piles.” I dare ya!

It's not just me, either! We were blessed this summer with Donna Maloney's help when she came to muck our corral, too—“it's meditation for me,” she said one day, and has been coming ever since. It reminds Donna of her own days when horses were a part of her family, and she likes the time of reflection and hanging with the horses, too. Donna also was our angel one day when we were gone and Satin Horse picked up an old rusty nail in her hoof. Donna was the one to notice her limping midday and help us get the vet there quickly!

I've mentioned before that I find that quiet time to ponder and pray an integral part of life, but this summer it went deeper. Being present with my horse, just hanging out, enjoying the birds, the breeze, the trees (and bees at times – a little unnerving!), getting in the dirt (not unlike some folks enjoy gardening), pondering life, praying about family, friends, church visioning—all has become a vital part of my life practice. It'll be hard to continue in the winter with snow and ice, but you can bet Satin will still want me to come out—to commune, sing, brush, pedicure, and love on her—whether or not I can pick up any poo! I will bundle up and continue that vital practice of communion, I promise.

For, *Presence*—to one another and to ourselves, our Maker, and the Earth—is what life is ultimately about and what spiritual practice brings us to. **“A model for living out a faith that is rooted in the Earth....in beasts and plants....”** as the Celtic Christians found to be core to their lives and their faith, is what many of us seek. We have a perfect opportunity, with no excuse, living in this beautiful place. Remember: “Buena” = “Beautiful!”

Rev. Erin Gilmore, our Association Conference Minister, spent a wonderful, insightful weekend with us recently. (Thank you, Erin and the Rocky Mountain Conference, for your inspired leadership and helping us imagine and vision!) One of the many “nuggets” that Erin left us with was this: “You can tell the health and vitality of a congregation by looking at two things:

Quality of Relationships and Depth of Generosity

Those two touchstones will be lifted up in the coming year as we live into God's vision for us as a beloved community on a faith journey together. My realization that “mucking the corral and communing with my horse in unhurried time” is a vital spiritual practice for me (and others) is one example to share. It builds quality relationships with God, my family, and my own soul. I've also found that a few minutes every day of Frisbee fetch and retrieve with the dogs thrills them no end and is an efficient way to exercise four at once!

What is *your* Spiritual Practice that builds quality relationships in and for you? Gathering in worship? Fellowshiping around the table? Check-ins at meetings before the business starts and sharing prayer concerns? Sharing Joys & Concerns when we are gathered? Sharing stories of our life experiences and faith journeys? Gardening? Hiking? Traveling? Working on windows alone or on a team? Serving on a Team for the health and quality leadership of the church? Praying in a quiet place, breathing in the sights, sounds and smells of the earth, the skies, the plants, and the beasts?

Blessings on your practice—alone and in community, Rebecca



FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- **Trash service:** A letter is being sent to Waste Management protesting their continued attempt to charge us for a termination fee.
- **Windows project:** All the windows are in and trimmed! Some final touches are planned for the kitchen window and a couple minor finishes. Roller shades have been installed!
- **Pump saver at parsonage:** The billing issue has been resolved.
- **Front door security:** The solar security light is installed and working well. We are narrowing the options for the video system to allow staff to observe and ID visitors at the front door down to two options.
- **Carpet cleaning:** Tabled until there is more information
- **Tree trimming:** Still working on options on this project.
- **Fire detectors:** Decided to replace all batteries in all detectors using Daylight Savings time ending as a trigger point. This should stop the repeated low battery beeps from around the building. Also will review age of each of the detectors at the same time, as they have a life expectancy.
- **Budget:** Reviewed financials and approved a proposed budget to submit to the Finance Team.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

OMG, the 93rd Annual Bazaar is here!! November 2, 9:00am—2:00pm. Thank you to everyone who helped set up after church on October 27 and those who labored all week (and so much earlier) to make/bake/stage our wonderful wares!

This month our meeting is November 21, 1:00pm. We will hold the election of officers, learn how fabulously the bazaar went, and turn in our Blessing Boxes. Our hostesses are Kathy Roman and Billie Branch. Our proposed officers for 2020 are Merilee Daugherty, President; Rhonda Funston, Vice-President; Cindy Helm, Secretary; and Kay Allinger, Treasurer. Let Rhonda know if you have any ideas for speakers and to get signed up to hostess one of our meetings.

~Merilee Daugherty, President



The Faith Education Team

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

Anthony J. D'Angelo

Faith Education for Everyone

The Faith Education Team celebrates that our church offers such a variety of opportunities for adults to learn. Many of these are planned by individuals, staff, and other teams, such as the upcoming retreat on November 8 - 10 with Rev. Brad and Rita Berglund. We encourage everyone to come. Our team has volunteered to help in whatever ways we can.

We as teachers and the children all like the new curriculum for children's church. We encourage anyone who would enjoy helping lead children's church on occasion to let us know.

The Adult Education Conversations That Matter has been studying scriptures that are suggested in the lectionary for pastors. We've enjoyed discussing and recalling important Biblical stories, learning about the history and applying it to current days.

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!

November's Theme: “An Abundance of Generous Gratitude!”

We'll explore many ways of giving thanks to God for the sacred and abundant gifts of Music, Silence, Food, and Creation.

Arlene Waldorf, Chair

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

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

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

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

Lindsey Fagerberg 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

Albert & Phyllis McCall (719) 966-9552 -A
(719) 659-9597-P
7950 W. Byers Ave. #102, Lakewood, CO 80226

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

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

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

Sarah Struthers - 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

Rocky Kemper
14680 SW Topaz Ln., Beaverton, OR 97007



CUCC Special Dates

BIRTHDAYS

- November 2—Angie Williams
- November 5—Gale Shaw
- November 5—Travis Propernick
- November 9—Scott Colvin
- November 9—Lindsey Fagerberg
- November 10—Cindy Helm
- November 12—Jasmine White
- November 13—Zach Fagerberg
- November 13—Bonnie Taylor
- November 17—Lou Tidd
- November 19—Scott McCuaig
- November 20—Steve Jackson
- November 25—Joan Wilder
- November 27—Linda Rak
- November 30—Leonard Nyberg

ANNIVERSARIES

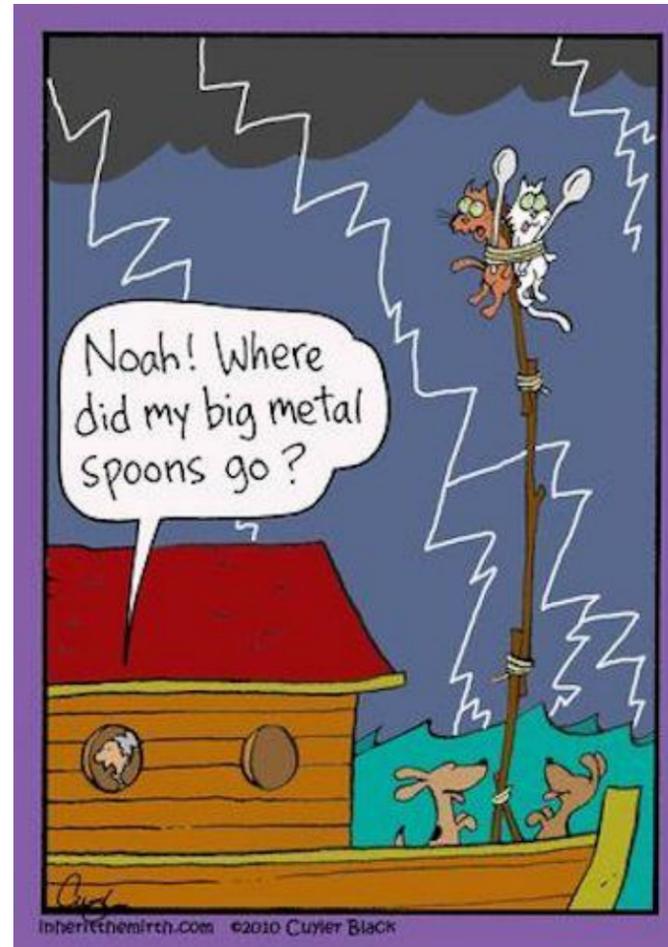
- November 20—Herb & Marilee Daugherty
- November 22—Bob & Marilyn Frykholm

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



Please Remember in Your Prayers

- Ampy Swartz—Comfort in the loss of her husband Fred
- The Family of Lou Broody—Comfort
- Kaylynne Pomfret and Blakely-Grace Pomfret—Strength
- Linette Williams—Healing
- Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing
- Margo (friend of Barb Wilder)—Healing
- Lori Hagen (friend of Kay Allinger)—Healing
- Laurie Riggs—Healing
- Marcy Adams—Healing
- Jean Brody—Comfort in the loss of Pierre Cat
- Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing
- Sarah Struthers—Healing
- Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing
- Pam Hughes—Healing
- Kacie Wheeler—Healing
- Ali Lufkin—Healing
- Del and Janet Jones—Healing
- Gary Dennis (friend of Rhonda Funston)—Healing
- Ruby Hamilton—Healing
- Warren Montgomery—Healing
- Vivian York—Healing
- Nan Bohe—Healing
- Mardy Cason (brother of Roger Cason)—Healing
- Dwight Griggs—Healing
- Janet Heinz—Healing
- Midori (Rebecca Kemper Poos' cousin)—Healing
- Brendan Stuart (niece of Molly Stuart)—Healing
- Norma Hughes (aunt of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
- Brooke Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing



CUCC CARES FOR CREATION



BRING YOUR CUP TO CHURCH!

Fill it up with Spirit, beautiful music, words to ponder, warm feelings. Fill it up at Coffee Hour with juice, coffee, water, whatever you drink!

Care for Creation by putting one less cup in the trash or recycle bin!



LET'S BE GREEN!!!

Please recycle everything possible at CUCC. We have bins in the office and Fellowship Hall to make it easy.



COMPOSTING AT CUCC - YES, THE CHURCH MAY USE THE COMPOSTING!

Compost generated directly by the church may be added for free, but individuals must sign up in order to be able to add their own personal composting. **For those adding CUCC's compost, the lock code is available in the office.**

Sign up at <https://garna.org/chaffee-green-composting/> for your own personal composting.

Please see the information sheet in the kitchen and on the composting bins for what is and is not allowed.

STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

The Stewardship Team devoted most of our meeting to reviewing the church's financial situation and discussing possible ways to address our current shortfall in a positive way. Ultimately we decided to join the Finance Team's proposal to have a match campaign. Officers and team members will pool their donations and issue a challenge to the rest of the congregation to match that amount. Bill W. and Ann C. will work on the proposal for the campaign to be presented to Council for discussion and approval. Rebecca also suggested investigating resources available through the wider church in the form of grants, programs, etc.

Additionally we discussed the importance of emphasizing all aspects of stewardship. Being generous is much more than giving money. Donations of our time and talent are as essential to our church family and the wider community as money.

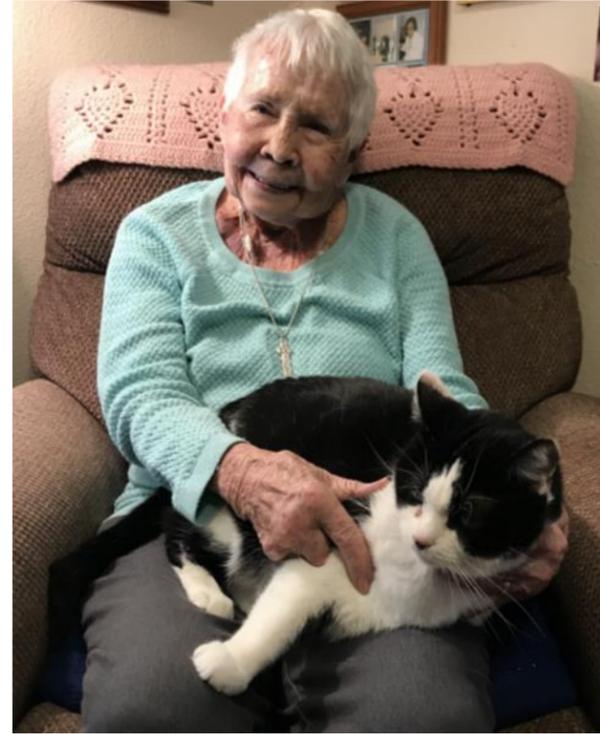
Judy Hassell proposed that our team suggest to Council that the 140th year celebration be observed all year long with the theme of reaching into the future. Teams will be encouraged to propose programs that contribute to our sustainability.

Ann Condra, Chair



View from the Mountain

“P”



It is a Tuesday, October first, and I am empty. Last night was the first night in twelve years that my beloved ‘P’ did not sleep next to me.

Last night he went into the closet and stayed there all night. I wonder if he did not want me to see him suffer. He was just that kind.

‘P’, the cat with the back legs a little too long, six toes on each foot, a runny right eye, and a heart so full of love for every human in his presence.

He is gone from my sight, gone from my arms, gone from my lap, but I do not expect him ever out of my heart.

I don’t believe there has ever been a time I did not have a cat as my companion. I am so very connected to cats and the way they think. They keep me centered.

So where is my ‘P’? I hear him in our apartment. I feel him in my arms. Sometimes in the morning, my eyes would close. He did not want me to go away to sleep, so he would take his front paws and pat my face until my eyes reopened and joined him in our life together.

Once he saved my life. He waked me up to find me struggling to breathe. He hit my cheek until I woke up and fixed the problem.

He taught me about unconditional love. No matter who came to visit us, he would always get up to get in their lap and love that person. He did not ask questions about who they were, what they believed, even whether or not they wanted his love greeting. He simply gave it. What a great life lesson.

Many residents and staff daily stopped by our apartment to simply hold ‘P’ and get their love fix. He had a kitty friend named Bella. I rescued them both while living in Winchester, Kentucky. When Gene and I moved to Salida, Colorado, we flew them both with us. ‘P’ drove Bella nuts, teasing and chasing her everywhere, yet when she got so sick at the last, he just laid his sweet body touching hers to sooth her just like he did for all of us.

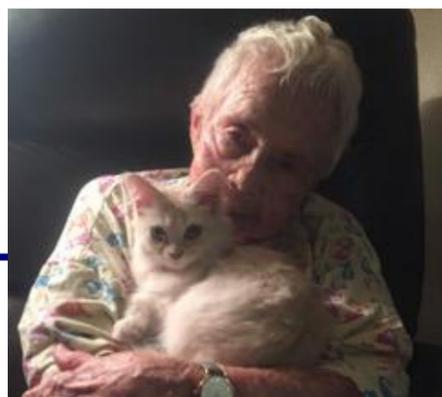
So, now my apartment is vacant, silent. I still reach for my ‘P’ in the bed before I even know where I am in the morning. I reach and my arms return empty. He is not here.

Or is he? Is it possible that such a huge part of me could just end like this? If ‘P’ had a soul, and I absolutely know that he did, then the only thing gone is his painful cancer-ridden body.

Maybe I can learn to connect and hold the soul of my ‘P’.

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

~ Jean Brody



P.S. Tilly, renamed “Shug,” after Jean’s mother’s nickname, was adopted by daughter Phoebe, out of concern for Jean. Jean was reluctant at first to accept another cat, but now doesn’t know what she’d do without Shug! She is funny, playful and keeps her constantly entertained!

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
AE=Adult Ed. Rm. CH=Choir Room D=Drama Room FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen PO=Pastor's Office	RR=Rainbow Room S=Sanctuary #7=Room 7 Outside Group				1 BAZAAR SET-UP 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7	2 9AM-2PM 93RD ANNUAL BAZAAR	
3 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Communion Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	4 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 4-6pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH 6:30-8:30pm CPC -CH, S	5 8:30am TOPS-CH 11:30am-1:00pm Republican Women-FH, K	6 6pm Choir/MSG -CH 7pm OA-#7	7 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 10am-12pm Journey Group -RR 7pm AA-AE	8 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 7PM-9PM CUCC CELTIC SPIRIT WEEKEND RETREAT	9 9AM-3PM CUCC CELTIC SPIRIT WEEKEND RETREAT 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7	
10 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church Special Celtic Service with Brad & Rita Benglund, Retreat Leaders 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am-12:30pm Worship Team-#7 11:30am-1pm Faith Ed. Team-D	11 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6:30-8:30pm CPC -CH, S	12 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	13 6pm Choir-CH 7pm OA-#7	14 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 6-8pm Facilities Team-#7 6:30-8pm Finance Team- 7pm AA-AE	15 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	16 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7	
17 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church— Homecoming Sunday! Bring a Friend! 11am Homecoming Feast	18 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 6:30-8:30pm CPC -CH, S	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am TOPS-CH 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	20 5:30-7:30pm Chaffee Green Steering Com. -D 6pm Choir-CH 7pm Council-AE 7pm OA-#7	21 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 10am-12pm Journey Group -RR 1-3pm WMS 7pm AA-AE	22 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	23 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7	
24 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour & Birthday Celebration 4-6pm Hanging of the Greens & Soup Supper	25 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:45-5:45pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH 6:30-8:30pm CPC -CH, S	26 8:30am TOPS-CH	27 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7			28 THANKSGIVING	29
					30 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon -#7 7pm AA-AE		



Kudos Kolumn

KUDOS to our amazing and creative “Hosting Team” for the Southeastern Association Annual Meeting held at CUCC on October 19, 2019. CUCC offered fabulous hospitality and a delightful “Style Show & Tell” depicting all of our many ministries. Janet Steiner is a creative genius! (but you already knew that.)

Team: Marjorie Erickson, Ron Erickson, Merilee Daugherty, Karen Bowers, Norma Smith, Rebecca K. Poos, Kathy Roman, and Janet Steiner.

Kudos to Bob Stocker as well, who said “Yes” to serving on the Executive Council of SEA!

WINDOWS UPDATE

The windows project isn't completely done, but—all the measuring, ordering, taking out, fitting, lifting, putting in, more cutting, sanding, staining, poly-ing, scraping, trimming are done—just to mention a few!!!

Please take a moment and say *thank you* to our leader, Paul, and be thankful for the terrific team of workers that stepped up. To be continued....and now the shades are installed!!! (Not done yet with the whole project, but we're so much closer!)

Worship Team Notes

The Worship Team is preparing for the upcoming busy season. Birthdays are being celebrated monthly with cake and fellowship.

November 17—A Homecoming/Thanksgiving Feast is being planned for after church that Sunday. We will provide a meal for the congregation. Please plan to attend and bring a friend to church. We are thankful for all of you!

November 24, 4:00pm-6:00pm, Hanging of the Greens—first step. We will gather to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. A soup supper will be provided.

December 1, Hanging of the Greens—final step. We will finish the decorating during the church service.

We continue to pass the ‘famous sign-up clipboard’ asking for Ushers, Greeters, Fellowship Hour Hosts, Altar Flowers, and Lectors. We are still in need of another soundboard person. Please let us know if you can help out. Thanks to all who have signed up and stepped in as needed!

Respectfully submitted, Barb Groy, Co-Chair

Outreach/Community & World Team News October greetings!

The Outreach Team would like to share several recent events:

LA PUENTE (‘the bridge’) We welcomed Israel Garcia, Director of Community Education for La Puente, a Family Resource Center in Alamosa, as our guest preacher on October 13. His sermon topic was “Who is Your Neighbor?” He and Nicole Rodriguez made an interesting presentation during Fellowship Hour. La Puente has a long covenant with CUCC, especially with enthusiastic participation by the WMS. Our congregation contributes financially and with supplies for hygiene bags.

“SOCKSGIVING” October 20—November 17. Many churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC will be collecting **NEW** socks! Socks are the most asked for clothing items at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other service facilities. Let's all get on this band wagon. Bring in your donations! A colorful box will be placed in the narthex or fellowship hall. All donations will be distributed locally or at West Side Cares in Colorado Springs.

LIVING GIFT MARKET/HEIFER INTERNATIONAL will be held on December 8. Lunch will be served. A fun time for all purchasing animals, bees, trees for enterprising folks in developing countries. In 2018 our CUCC Market sent in \$2700. Let's top that amount in 2019. Stay tuned!

PS Don't forget to bring in PB & J. for the local mission.

Contribute your change (coins & bills) to the Bob Dwyer Children's Fund in the jar in the narthex. Angelo Abellana needs your support for school tuition. Thanks!

Submitted by Helen Duncan, Chair

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!

JOURNEY GROUP
with Molly Stuart
Thursday, November 7 & 21
10:00am-12:00pm
Rainbow Room

Topic: “Where is God Today in the World?”

All are welcome!

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 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,



93rd Annual Bazaar

Congregational
United Church of Christ
217 Crossman

Sat. Nov. 2, 2019

9:00-2:00

Raffle items

handmade quilt

"Women's Voices"

Civil War replica fabric and patterns

hand carved hall bench

CANDY, CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS,
BOOKS, COLLECTIBLES,
TREASURES

and many, many other items



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!

SERVICE TRIP 2020—MATANZAS, CUBA For RMCUCC High School Youth, 9-12 Grades June 13-21, 2020

A one-of-a-kind global mission experience designed to grow your faith.

To learn more and register, call or email Kelly Jo at 970-209-1613 or jellykoelark@gmail.com.

\$200 deposit due by November 30.

See the bulletin board under RMC Connections for more information.

Also visit www.GroupMissionTrips/International.

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



CUCC's HOMECOMING WORSHIP & FAMILY FEAST!
Sunday, November 17
10:00am Worship
11:00am Feast
Bring a Friend!

Gather from far and near for CUCC's 'not a potluck!'

Special worship service of celebrating CUCC past, present and future!
 Come one, come all, bring a friend or neighbor and join in the fun and feasting!



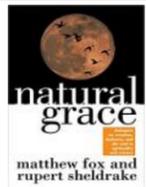
**CELTIC SPIRIT
 WEEKEND RETREAT**
November 8-10, 2019
 At CUCC
 Friday, 7:00pm-9:00pm
 Saturday, 9:00am-3:00pm
 Sunday, 10:00am Worship

"Reading Deeply: The Natural World as Sacred Text"

Celtic Pilgrimage Leaders Brad & Rita Berglund lead this Celebration of Spirit through a Celtic lens.

Registration: \$10 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, and you will find rest for your souls."*



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.

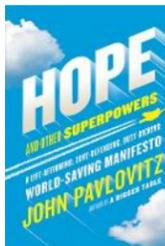
The sessions last one to one and one-half hours and are open to men of CUCC and the community.

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



All women are invited!

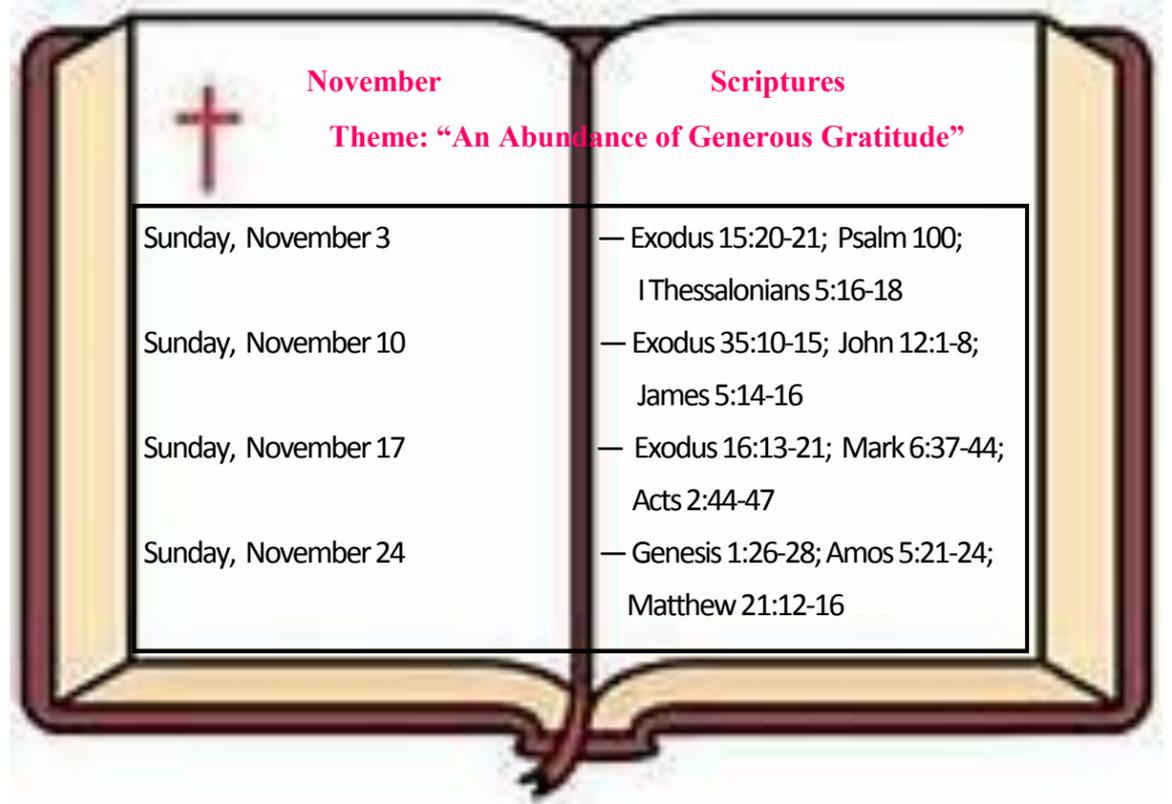
We read and discuss books, share life, joys, and concerns, and enjoy snacks!



The group is reading "Hope and Other Superpowers" by John Pavlovitz.

See Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list.

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



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.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 10:00AM

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

SINGERS WELCOME AND INVITED!

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



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 CUCC 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 9-2, 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.*

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

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



**EARTH, SKY & SEA—A HEART & SOUL IMMERSION IN
ANCIENT CELTIC SPIRITUALITY
WITH BRENDAN ELLIS WILLIAMS
November 22-24**

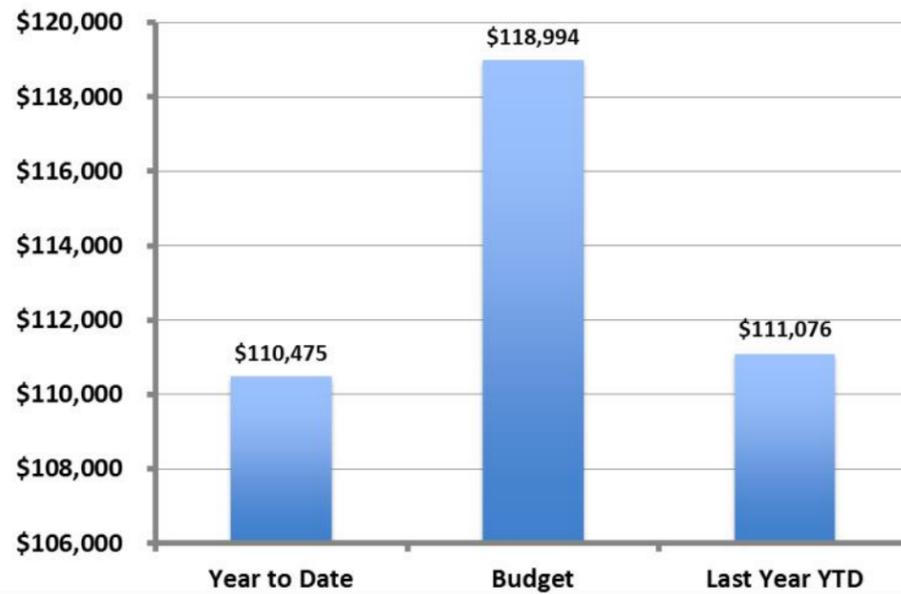
La Foret Retreat Center, Colorado Springs

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 and Ron Erickson are considering attending. Anyone want to join us?

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

General Contributions through September, 2019



**LIVING & GIVING
with INTENTION:
DID YOU KNOW?**

- * CUCC's budget has many categories, ministries and types of funds.
- * General Fund is what keeps the church ministering, worshiping, educating, and serving day to day.
- * Restricted Funds are earmarked giving for specific needs and projects and make it possible to add new windows, support the community, and reach out and in, beyond our basic operating level.
- * Contributions to CUCC in ALL these areas are needed and SO MUCH appreciated!!
- * YOU make it possible to "Be the Church!"

CUCC Finance and Budget Team

September News

The Team is working with the Stewardship/Visioning Team and Council on a project called "OurMatch.Challenge" (OMC) to address the budget shortfall for 2019. Stay tuned to hear more about this exciting opportunity for our congregation.



Sound Tech #4 Needed!

We currently have three sound board operators for the church sound system who have been faithfully rotating duties since March 3: Matthew Maloney, Jeff Keidel, and Ron Rak. It would be really nice to have a fourth, so that each person only has to serve one Sunday a month. *Share our burden (that is—fun)!*

We have a nice, flexible sound system that really works and is easy to use. There are written, illustrated instructions, and we'll give you a free lesson! Plus, you get to drink coffee during the service!! See one of us on a Sunday.

Thank you!

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 24**

24

HANGING OF THE GREENS
AND SOUP SUPPER
4:00PM-6:00PM

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 1**

1

"ADVENT ONE"
COMMUNION WORSHIP
10:00AM

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8**

8

HEIFER
INTERNATIONAL

"ADVENT TWO" WORSHIP
10:00AM
HEIFER LIVING GIFT MARKET
AND LUNCHEON
11:00AM-1:00PM

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8**

8

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
4:00PM-6:00PM
LEAVE FROM CUCC

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15**

15

INTERGENERATIONAL
ALL-CHURCH
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
10:00AM

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 20**

20

CHRISTMAS PRAYER VIGIL
12:00PM-12:00AM
noon-midnight

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 22**

22

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00AM

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 24**

24

CANDLELIGHT/COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
7:00PM

CUCC Council Minutes

October 16, 2019

Present: Ron Erickson, Margie Erickson, Bill Waldorf, Ann Condra, Betsy Neas, Kathy Roman, Rebecca Poos, Helen Duncan, and Merilee Daugherty
Moderator Margie Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:17pm opening with a welcoming prayer from Celtic Treasure.

General Business and Reports

Minutes from the September 18 Council Meeting were approved as printed upon motion from Ann Condra, seconded by Bill Waldorf. Prior to approval there was a question as to Rebecca's ability to make or second a motion or vote as an ex-officio member of Council. Bill researched the issue during the meeting and yes, Rebecca has the same rights as other Council members, unless the action applies directly to her and her position within the church.

Clerk's Report: Kacie and Steve Wheeler have asked to be removed from the membership roster. Bob and Marilyn Frykholm have also asked to be removed. The Frykholms have had dual membership with us and 1st Baptist Church of Colorado Springs. Helen made a motion and Ann seconded that we accept both requests with regret. Bob will need to be replaced on the Pastoral Relations Team.

Treasurer's Report: Bill distributed a copy of the balance sheet as of the end of September. The general fund is \$8,000 behind what we budgeted and expenses are also under budget. As yet, no Team has turned in a proposed budget for 2020.

Moderator's Report: Council voted to hold our Annual Meeting January 26, 2020. The Celtic Spirit Weekend will be here at CUCC on November 8th, 7:00pm-9pm; 9th, 9:00am-3:00pm; and 10th during worship. The topic is Reading Deeply: The Natural World as Sacred Text and is funded by our Lilly Foundation Sabbatical Grant. This is open to everyone, including our community members.

Continuing Business

Update on Windows Installation: All windows have been installed and almost all trim is in place. Janet Steiner has ordered roller shades for the sanctuary. We will wait and see how much money is left before we consider window coverings for the Fellowship Hall.

Lifetouch Directory: Monday, October 14, was the last opportunity for folks to have their pictures taken to be included in the directory. There were several cancellations. Ann and Nancy Best continue to check everyone's address before the directory goes to print.

Feedback from the Congregational Gathering 9/29/19: Erin Gilmore was very informative, down-to-earth, and seemed to genuinely want to help us become more comfortable in our time, talent, and treasure giving. Helen moved and Ron Erickson seconded the motion that Council accept the March, June, and September Congregational Gathering minutes. The motion passed.

New Business

"OurMatch.Challenge": Ann and Bill, representing Stewardship/Visioning and Finance and Budget Teams, emailed a letter to everyone on the Big List. They proposed a challenge, OurMatch.Challenge, to the congregation to bring in funds over and above what people have planned to give for 2019. The idea is that members of Teams and Council pledge or simply donate an extra amount by a deadline. Once we know that amount we will approach the congregation to solicit funds to match that amount. As of tonight's meeting, not all Teams had an opportunity to discuss the proposal. Worship Team had discussed this and Betsy presented their concerns: there may be resistance from the congregation given we had just asked for money for new windows; is this sustainable?; should Teams look at slashing their 2020 budgets? Following a motion from Bill, seconded by Helen, a straw vote was taken and it was unanimous that "we go ahead and undertake the challenge." After further discussion, Bill moved and Ann seconded that Finance and Budget Team with the Stewardship/Visioning Team, with the approval of Council, moves that we put the plan "OurMatch.Challenge" into action. The vote was unanimous. A letter will be sent to everyone on the Big List, following approval by our Moderators and Pastor, asking them to either pledge or donate before November 15. After we know the amount pledged/donated by the leadership, a second letter will go out to the rest of the congregation stating the amount we hope will be matched. It will be stressed any amount from \$5 up is welcome.

Nominating Committee for 2020: We will be looking for a chairman, who will then select his/her committee.

Team Reports and Updates

Outreach Team: Sunday, October 13, we welcomed Israel Garcia from La Puente as our speaker. There will be a box placed in the narthex for the 'Socksgiving collection.' We will participate with the Rocky Mountain Conference in this sock drive, running from October 20 through November 17. December 8 there will be a lunch served in conjunction with the Heifer International program. We are still donating to Angelo in the Philippines, and Ark Valley mission is in need of PB&J.

Stewardship/Visioning Team: They worked to find ways to generate time, talent, and treasure contributions. They discussed extensively the OurMatch.Challenge. They urge us to find a way to celebrate the church's 140th birthday all year in 2020.

Finance and Budget Team: A generous extra financial donation was received, but we are still under budget in donations. They discussed having Kay send a thank-you letter to every member that would also indicate donations to date. There is a need to find a way for people to donate electronically.

Facilities Team: They have had a difficult time getting members together for a meeting. There is a new motion light at the front door, and they are still researching a security device for that entrance. Waste Management is still a problem as they continue to bill us.

Faith Education Team: They are pleased to see children coming, and the curriculum is well received by both the youth and the adult instructors. Kathy Keidel is looking for easy crafts. Adult Ed is doing "Conversations that Matter," which includes looking at the lectionary and sermon topic for the following week. The Christmas program will be December 15.

Worship Team: Birthday Sunday will be October 20. On November 17 there will be a Homecoming Feast following the service. We are encouraged to invite anyone that has attended services here in the past, friends, and neighbors. The Hanging of the Greens will be November 24, from 4:00pm-6:00pm, with a soup supper to follow. Some decorating will be left for December 1 during the service so as to incorporate the children.

Affiliated Organizations and Committees

Women's Missionary Society: Our September speaker was the daughter of a holocaust survivor. Her presentation was very moving. Planning for the Bazaar is underway and individuals are being contacted to help.

Pastor's Report: We host the Southeastern Association this Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm, with Sue Artt presenting what's happening in the Conference. Nancy's hours in the office are now Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9-2. The TELLS weekend retreat at Judy Hassell's cabin went very well with nine attendees representing three churches. They have been welcoming new members and are currently reading Hope by John Pavlovitz. Refunds have been coming from those companies affected when Rebecca had to cancel her trip to Scotland. At the September Congregational Gathering, Erin Gilmore stressed 'Quality of Relationships and Depth of Generosity' and we need to continue building on these two things as we go forward.

Prayer Concerns/Adjournment

The prayer list continues to expand and Rebecca is being stretched. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 20 at 7:00pm.

Prepared by Merilee Daugherty for Clerk Ron Rak

THANK YOU FOR THE BACKPACKS! FROM BETH RITCHIE

Thank you, CUCC—I was pleased to be able to send a thank you card for a very generous donation of 24 very nice looking 17" black padded backpacks made to BV HOPE from Chris and Katherine Poos. They were in one of your Sunday services and heard the report about BV HOPE/Restore Innocence. It means so much to us at BV HOPE that other people join us in what we are doing to help those trapped in human trafficking. We will never know the impact that these restoration bags have on survivors. They receive them when they are rescued and have very few possessions except the clothes on their back, if that. They bring comfort and hope to those who have had neither for a very long time. Thank you again for partnering with BV HOPE for restoration bag events at your church. We appreciate the support and encouragement it gives to us.

Gratefully,
Beth Ritchie, Director of BV HOPE

Hi Rebecca. This is Chris, Clarke's son. Katherine and I wanted to donate these backpacks to help with the victims of sex trafficking. We hope this helps!

Regards, Chris Poos.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity has been providing affordable homeownership for those earning less than 60% of Chaffee County's AMI (currently about \$37,620 for a family of 4) for the past 19 years. Thanks to the support from this community, we have completed 20 homes with two new homes under construction.

Our current capacity to build does not satisfy the rapidly expanding need. Habitat and the communities of Chaffee County want employees to live where they work. Habitat serves families in the 30% to 60% of area median income. Nearly 400 families in Chaffee County are in this bracket, paying more than 30% of their gross income for housing and/or living in substandard housing.

Currently we have land for three to four new homes; we always need more volunteers in construction and the ReStore; and an additional \$50,000 is needed before we can begin the next build. Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity asks for your help -- Volunteers, Land, and Funding.



Sincerely, Jill Smola, Executive Director, Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity

Please visit www.chaffeehabitat.org or call 719-395-0482 for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!