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.

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

**Sunday Schedule**

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

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**MODERATOR’S MOMENT**

**“LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY”**

**CHOOSE LIFE**

"Love God, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God. I call heaven and earth to witness to you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So “Choose Life.”

Deuteronomy 30:16b, 19

When adversity comes, “Choose Life.” Jesus did, even though he had to give himself totally by dying on a cross. His life ultimately broke the power of Herod the King, who sought to kill him at his birth, and of the Roman Empire, turning the world upside down with his message of compassion and love.

As a church family we will affect the future life of this church by how we treat one another. It is not easy to forgive another person, to choose to live together, searching for harmony when we have differing opinions and views and feel unheard. Trusting one another to hear the hurt we are feeling when we feel like our own needs are not being met is an important first step.

In my own life, over and over again, I have had to “let go and let God.” I’ve had to release and let go in order to be open to the change that I needed to face and take hold of. I’ve had to rest in the arms of God’s care. Some people have called this holy resilience, the rhythm of releasing and taking hold. They may have had to abandon long cherished dreams, set aside life patterns that are harmful, or even had to jettison habits and practices that once worked well for them, but no longer do. They may have even had to leave a beloved place.

One of the most helpful books that many of us have read and shared in small group conversations lately is one entitled The Book of Joy - Lasting Happiness in a Changing World. Two world leaders have created this wonderful book: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Their conversations in the book were guided by facilitator Douglas Abrams. I would like you to consider the suffering of the Dalai Lama when he had to flee his beloved country of Tibet in 1959 and become a refugee in the mountains of Northern India, where is has lived all these years in exile.

Consider these words by Bishop Tutu to the Dalai Lama: “I’m really very humbled listening to His Holiness because of the fact of his serenity, and his calm and joyfulness in spite of the adversity or you might say ‘because of the adversity’ that has evolved for him. It has increased my admiration for him. It almost seems perverse, but one wants to say ‘thank goodness for the Chinese invasion of Tibet, because I don’t think that we would have had this friendship, that he would have gotten a Nobel Peace Prize or that he would have become a global spiritual leader.”

Embracing change, like God sending a new message of reconciliation and love through the birth of baby Jesus was a bold new message that relationships matter! God reaching out to touch the hand of all human beings bringing hope and joy. God sets before us life and death; therefore, “Choose Life!”

May God’s peace and joy abide with you always in the coming New Year!

~Marge Erickson, Moderator
PASTOR'S ARTICLE, January, 2020

12 Therefore, as God's beloved community, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Col 3)

I have a dream. It's a dream for that January—when we launch with hope into a New Year and remember Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous sermon calling us all to dream with hope and imagination. I have a dream of a Beloved Community, serving, and loving together, with the scripture above as our guide. My dream is of a place and space where people can bring their authentic selves, be fully real and wholly loved—by God and one another. A place where Mr. Roger’s rule of kindness and simple mantra “I like you just the way you are” meets Jesus’ command to “Love the Lord Your God, neighbor and self—heart, mind and soul!”

To that dream I bring you, as your Pastor, my authentic self—foibles and shortcomings and all. Full transparency: I am emotional, sensitive, and a big-picture, slightly crazy, creative, visionary leader with healthy boundaries. I bring my deep love and commitment, integrity, honesty, and profound passion for creating loving and authentic community as followers of Christ. I bring my vision for leading a church to be all it can be—a truly Beloved Community connecting in life-giving ministries with its wider community.

Everything You Wanted to Know about Your Pastor But Were Afraid to Ask

In order to live into our dreams and vision together in this new year, it's a good time to look at the covenantal relationship between a Congregation and its Pastor and renew our covenant to one another. When a church calls a pastor, a Covenant Agreement is created together, using guidelines from the United Church of Christ, the congregation’s Bylaws, scripture, and prayer. Ordained ministers and congregations also commit to Ethical Codes in covenant.

As your pastor, I seek to uphold all aspects of our covenantal relationship and agreements. I look to the “Spiritual Welfare of the church” as the overarching goal of all ministry, as we serve and love God, one another, and ourselves. I understand that the needs and vision of a congregation change over time and commit to exploring those changing needs in healthy dialogue. I ask your grace and understanding when expectations far exceed the hours in a week or possibilities for presence in many places at once are not possible. I offer grace and understanding that someone might be there ahead of you.

In order to live into our dreams and vision together in this new year, it's a good time to look at the covenantal relationship between a Congregation and its Pastor and renew our covenant to one another.

Some “highlights” of these guidelines for understanding our shared ministry:

- From the CUCC Bylaws—The Pastor's Job Description:
  - The Pastor shall:
    1. Have charge over the spiritual welfare of the church with the assistance of the Diaconate.
    2. Seek to enlist persons as followers of Christ.
    3. Preach the gospel.
    4. Administer the sacraments.
    5. Have under his/her care all services of public worship.
    6. Be an ex-officio member of the Council and all the Boards and Committees except as otherwise provided.

- From the Ordained Minister's Ethical Code—Covenant with My Ministry Setting To:
  - Preach and teach the gospel without fear or favor, regarding all persons with equal respect and concern, and undertaking to minister impartially.
  - Honor all confidences shared with me, telling only those who need to know, what they need to know, when they need to know it.
  - Steward church funds and property faithfully, while overseeing the administrative tasks of ministry with integrity.
  - Speak the truth, not using my position, power, or authority to exploit any person nor using my position for unwarranted personal financial gain.

PASTOR CHATS

Tuesdays from 3:00pm-5:00pm, Pastor Rebecca will hold “Drop-In Hours” at the Office.

Feel free to drop by to chat, with the understanding that someone might be there ahead of you.

Please knock on the door to let Pastor Rebecca know you're waiting.

For a quality, fully-focused, confidential conversation, please make an appointment.

Pastor Rebecca will gladly meet with you during the week (and after Coffee Hour on Sundays) at the office, or over coffee (or lunch or wine!), or come to your home.

PASTOR'S Week At a Glance:

- Sunday — Church Family Day
- Monday — Sabbath & Singing
- Tuesday — Meetings, Appointments, Worship & Education Prep, TELLS 3:00pm-5:00pm “Drop-In Hours” at the Office
- 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

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

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

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

CUCC HAS A PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE!

Please read below a brief description of our purpose:

1. An advisory group to the pastor, sharing ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations and concerns of the congregation
2. Support for the pastor’s leadership interpreting roles, functions, and needs of the pastor to the congregation

Our committee aids the church in following Paul’s instructions: “Help carry one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all…” (Galatians 6:2,10)

If you wish further explanation and description, please refer to a booklet called “A Sure Foundation—resources for the relationship between pastors and congregations,” prepared and published by the United Church of Christ Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team, which is available in the narthex.

Helen Duncan, Chair
Mark Wolters, Judy Hassell, Ron Erickson
Moderators and Vice-Moderators are invited to the meetings when fitting, as well.
CUC Special Dates

BIRTHDAYS
January 2 — Kathy Keidel
January 3 — Ann Condra
January 5 — Bridgett Tucker
January 6 — Billie Branch
January 7 — Cameron Wolters
January 9 — Carl Hansen
January 10 — Dorothy Coy
January 13 — Nan Bohe
January 16 — Vivian York
January 19 — Jean Venard
January 27 — Tricia Blake
January 27 — Elvin Benton
January 28 — Marilyn Frykholm
January 29 — Jean Ferguson
January 29 — Kathy Perry
January 31 — Kay Allinger
January 31 — Gail Moffat

ANNIVERSARIES
January 7 — Frazer & Kaylynn Pomfret
January 16 — Matthew & Donna Maloney

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

Please Remember in Your Prayers

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PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY—Congregation’s Covenant

*We believe that the ministry and mission of the Church are given to all baptized Christians. We will nurture and join our gifts for ministry with those of the pastor in the Church and in the world. We will work cooperatively and collegially with the pastor. We recognize that our church and our pastor are part of the larger faith community and we will support our pastor in being responsible participants in the wider church in the world.

*We recognize the many and diverse expectations we have of our pastor, and we will offer our support through prayer, encouragement, and partnership in the ministry of this church.

*We recognize our responsibility to provide our pastor with adequate compensation and benefits. We will make these decisions in consultation with our pastor and in light of the compensation guidelines established by RMC.

*We recognize our pastor’s need for physical and spiritual renewal, and we will provide adequate time and resources for study, devotion, leisure, vacation, and sabbatical. (https://www.uccefiles.com/pdf/ASF-EthicalCodes.pdf)


2019 Pastoral Leave Taken per Call Agreement—Pastor Rebecca Kemper Poos

All time away is coordinated with the Moderators and other church leaders/Council throughout the year. Time away is planned and announced well in advance, and Pastor invites Guest Preachers and informs the Worship Team and Music staff and arranges for on-call Pastoral Care.

- 4 weeks Vacation Allowed – 4 days taken of 4 weeks.
- 2 Weeks Study Leave Allowed – 1 week taken of 2 weeks.
- Compassionate leave up to 5 days per incident for death or sickness of an immediate family member (2 episodes in 2019: Mother’s funeral; Son Rocky’s surgery & biopsy)
- Sabbatical: 3 months every 5 years of service. (Taked June 10 – Sept 19, 2019)
- Wider Church work as needed, in consultation with leadership (RMC Annual Meeting 3 days)
- 2 Days Off per Week for Sabbath and personal and family time. (Mondays & Saturdays are the hoped-for Days Off each week. Rarely possible, but trying for in the new year!)

*Weekly Plan

Sunday — Ministry Work Day
Monday — Sabbath/Day Off/Chorale Singing (some work inevitable)
Tuesday — Ministry Work Day (7:00am – 10:00pm): Office admin and leadership, planning, writing, pastoral visits and calls, meetings, groups, outreach
DROP-in Hours 3:00–5:00 pm
Wednesday — Ministry Work Day (7:00am – 10:00pm) (see above)
Thursday — Ministry Work Day (7:00am – 10:00pm) (see above)
Friday — Ministry Work/Writing Day (sermon and worship prep, calls, visits, projects at home office)
Saturday — Day Off/Family Day (when possible, with sermon & worship finalizing)

*Pastoral Care – Available 24/7 for emergencies. Please call, text, email, or Facebook me right away.
*Hospital Visits and Out-of-Town — Make every effort to visit and arrange with another nearby pastor if needed.
*Home visits — Made as often as possible, and upon request, especially.
*How to reach me: RevBecca@elcod.com; Cell phone: 719-252-6890

Blessings, Pastor Rebecca
Ever heard of a Spirit House? I don't mean a real house with real spirits. I mean a little house for weary travelers on the journey of life, just to rest a bit, to lay a heavy head down and close eyes that have seen enough.

I used to have one. It was a gift from two friends who made it about the size of a shoebox, but taller because of a top dome. I kept it by itself on a simple table in my foyer.

It was yellow and pale blue and decorated with seashells. The front door and two side windows were wide open. One could almost feel the gentle breeze entering, soothing tired furrowed brows.

Spirit Houses began in Thailand as part of Buddhism. They are much bigger and I read that today they're commonly used in their worship.

The guardian of the house is the spirit that watches over and protects the home and all in it. This idea of feeling safe appeals to me very much.

First of all, what does spiritual mean? One definition is “Concerned with or affecting the soul,” and “spiritus,” which means breath of God. The definition I like best is “The immaterial part of man.”

I have kept searching to find out why this idea of a spirit house touched me. I found a quote from Nicolas Chemsort, “To enjoy and make others enjoy without doing ill to anyone, this is the foundation of all morality.”

Oh, how I believe this. Every time I looked at my Spirit House it filled me with sweet promise. Surely there will be peace always there for us and ministering with and through us! I believe it.

And life is a journey we all take together. It is my belief that God has promised never to leave us in darkness and loss. I believe it.

I am human and weak, but the years of having a little Spirit House, front door and two side windows wide open and welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours.

I know God could never be contained in a shoebox. The Spirit House is an outward symbol for me of a universal love welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours. I am human and weak, but the years of having a little Spirit House, front door and two side windows wide open and welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours. I am human and weak, but the years of having a little Spirit House, front door and two side windows wide open and welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours. I am human and weak, but the years of having a little Spirit House, front door and two side windows wide open and welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours. I am human and weak, but the years of having a little Spirit House, front door and two side windows wide open and welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours. I am human and weak, but the years of having a little Spirit House, front door and two side windows wide open and welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours.

The view from the mountain is wondrous. — Jean Brody
The Facilities Team did not meet in December; however, here is the status on current status on projects:

1. Windows - All are installed. Janet has obtained quotes for 3 sets of blinds in Fellowship Hall. The committee will meet and make a decision on them after Christmas. WE have the money in the window budget.

2. Ring units (video/audio units for front door security) are installed. Pastor Rebecca has the information and will be activating the monitoring account once she installs the app on the chosen devices.

3. All the batteries in the smoke detectors have been replaced. The plan is to replace all once a year at the fall time change. This should eliminate the frequent chirping from low batteries.

4. Plowing - Mark has arranged for Tom Rollings to plow for special occasions or when Miles is unable to plow.

5. Waste Mgt - This saga should be at an end finally. The short version is that we reluctantly paid the “disconnect fee” after they took off the interest and penalties.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Hassell, Chair

The Faith Education Team
Faith Education for Everyone

The Team didn’t meet in December, but we would like to remind all that children’s church continues every Sunday during worship and all are welcome to sign up for a week of teaching our delightful kids!

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER
Sundays, 9:00-9:45, Adult Ed Room, CUCC
All are welcome to join this lively discussion group that looks at lectionary passages and upcoming sermon themes.

Skyler, Gabby and Ryan Tucker made everyone’s day one Sunday in December by giving spontaneous hugs during Coffee Hour!
**CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**

**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 have now begun studying “The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama.

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!

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**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.

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**WINNERS’ MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS**

We had a great end-of-the-year meeting where we hosted Amanda Pearson from La Puente. The new officers, Merilee Daugherty (President), Rhonda Funston (VP), Cindy Helm (Secretary), and Kay Allinger (Treasurer), were installed by outgoing Vice President Ruth Amster. We approved our 2020 budget, which Kay will provide for the annual report.

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Memorial Reception for the Tidds; there were plenty of cookies left for the December 15 Coffee Hour. You have all been so supportive of me during my first year as President - thank you!

Our 2020 theme is ‘Nature’ and our first meeting will be January 23. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

~Merilee Daugherty

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**INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING**
6-WEEK MINI-SESSION
Tuesday nights, Jan. 7-Feb. 11, 7:00pm-8:30pm
13205 CR 280, near Nathrop

Singles welcome! No experience needed!
January 7 session FREE!

Call 719-539-7877 or email monarch.mavericks@yahoo.com for info on carpools and directions to venue.

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**SQUARE DANCE**
Saturday, January 11, 1:30pm-3:00pm
Salida Community Center

No charge—no experience needed—singles welcome!
Two left feet? Bring 'em both—square dancing is a hands thing!

For more info, call 539-7877, text 480-703-9120, or email to monarch.mavericks@yahoo.com.

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**CUCC Finance and Budget Team**

*January News*
The Budget Team has been working on the Annual Budget, preparing for the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 26.

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**STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS**

There is nothing to report this month. See you next month!

Ann Condra, Chair

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**OUTREACH/COMMUNITY & WORLD TEAM NEWS—January greetings!**

*** Thank you for contributing to the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund taken in December. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks.

*** Christmas greetings were sent to Angelo Jesus, our sponsored child in the Philippines. Thank you for signing the cards!

*** The Backpack program is distributing 55 packs to local children.

*** Don’t forget to purchase your coffee at CUCC. Equal Exchange programs help small coffee growers around the world. Our price has been raised slightly, but we think the product is top notch and your money is put to good use.

*** SPECIAL NOTICE: CUCC Socksgiving collected over 300 pairs of clean socks, delivered to the shelter and resource center in Salida. Thank you, thank you!

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**WINDOWS UPDATE**

Our window project is continuing. With holidays, concerts, programs, vacations, health, things may seem at a standstill. In December, Paul Dorfmeister was recognized for his leadership. He received a corny reading, applause, gift cards, and a big gold star!!

The lovely stained glass hangings that were removed to put in the new windows are being rehung. However, they will be displayed in new places. The large round one is in the Fellowship Hall, where anyone using that area will be able to admire it. The two smaller ones will grace the large windows above the entrance in the narthex.

Sunlight will fill that area with color! This also allows an uninterrupted view through our new windows.

Sanctuary valances are being made by Delmar Smith. They will have mini-curtains at each end to soften that business office look. Measuring and plans have been done for completion. The plaques are being kept for a special ending. Happy 2020!!
**THANK YOU FROM NANCY IN THE OFFICE**

I am so grateful for all the kind words I receive so often here in the office. You all make working at CUCC a joy. I know I’m far from perfect, but you treat me like I am!

Thank you so very, very much for the Christmas card and gift! I can’t thank you enough! The card is cute enough to keep and the contents useful enough to be truly enjoyed.

I’ve never had a job where I’ve been so appreciated, and believe me, the appreciation is not wasted!

With sincerest thanks,
Nancy, your Office Communications Administrator

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**THANKS FROM THE CPC**

Congregational UCC ~
Thank you so much for allowing us to use your beautiful space to practice every week! We would not be able to put on this performance without you! You are so appreciated!

Editor’s note: CPC increased their donation to $375 to show their appreciation!

---

**GREETINGS FROM LUCILLE HABECK**
Pastor Rebecca & Congregation,

“’Tis the season for sharing good times with family and friends and for making the kind of memories to treasure without end!”

A happy healthy year to all.
Love to you all,
Lucille

---

**Blessings & Gift From St. Rose**

Dear CUCC,

Please accept this gift ($100) from our parish for your Backpack Ministry.

God bless you for your continuous support to our community. We wish your congregation the peace of Christ and good health throughout these Advent and Christmas seasons.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Steve Parlet. St. Rose of Lima

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**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 719-395-2644 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.

---

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE NELSONS**

Dear dear Rev. Rebecca Kemper Poos and your church,
It is a bit late but we have been very sick and are still slow in doing.
A special Hug and good wishes from
Reggie & Judy & family

---

**MORE THANKS FROM CHUCK TIDD**

Hi Rebecca,
Thank you so much for all you did for us,
Best wishes and happy holidays,
Chuck Tidd

---

**THANKS FROM THE CPC**

Collegiate Peaks Chorale
Editor’s note: CPC increased their donation to $375 to show their appreciation!

---

**THANKS FROM THE CPC**

Lucille

Love to you all,
A happy healthy year to all.

---

**“CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER”**

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP AT CUCC!
Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room

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

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**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!
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.

Visitors: Jim Amster, Ruth Amster, Kathy Keidel, Rhonda Funston, Judy Hassell.

Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Marj Erickson read a devotional from 1st Corinthians.

General Business and Reports—7:16pm

Minutes from the November 20 Council Meeting were open for corrections. Hearing none, Merilee moved/Ann seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion passed.

Executive Session

Executive Summary

The visitors were excused from the remainder of the Council meeting. Council then brainstormed ideas for moving forward in differing perspectives and expectations. Rebecca shared a sample of a Behavioral Covenant based on scripture for our discussion and encouraged us to seek to build up one another and our community as we work through differences, rather than tearing down. The role, make-up, and purpose of the Pastoral Relations Committee will also be promoted throughout the congregation.

Rebecca promised to respond to the questions raised about leave time, time worked, and priorities, with information and clarification. The Pastoral Call Agreement and responsibilities will be shared in the January newsletter [see Pastor’s Report], as well as reports about how time is allocated to various pastoral functions. She noted, for example, that she has not taken the two days off each week in the Call Agreement for many years, has taken only four days of her allocated four weeks of vacation for this year, and is putting in the maximum possible time every week to all pastoral duties. She has observed for many years with regards to both communication with the congregation and job expectations that the expectations far exceed what one full-time person can do and that those expectations are many and varied—even contradictory at times. (e.g., “One person cannot be in five places at the same time!”). Her hope is that the congregation will seek to understand the vast scope of the ministry and work in covenant and trust with her going forward and that we will keep working collaboratively in our quarterly gatherings to create and agree on a shared vision and focus, along with unified goals for CUCC, so that all might minister together.

Prayer Concerns and Adjournment. Both Marj and Ron Erickson offered prayers of peace, compassion and encouragement to carry us forward. Meeting was adjourned at 10:29pm.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for January 15, 7:00pm.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for January 26, 11:30am, after the worship service.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

CUCC Council Minutes

December 18, 2019

Budget

Last Year YTD

Year to Date  Budget Last Year YTD

$120,000 $125,000 $130,000 $135,000 $140,000 $145,000

General Contributions through November, 2019

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

Executive Session

The visitors were excused from the remainder of the Council meeting. Council then brainstormed ideas for moving forward in healing and constructive ways. There was a consensus by all present that guidance from the Rocky Mountain Conference with the whole congregation to work on “Healthy Ministry Relationships” was needed and would be explored early in the new year.