



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

March 2021 Newsletter

Estes Park's historic mainline Protestant congregation founded in 1907.

Core Value: The Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies is a Sacred Community formed around Jesus the Christ where we experience God's presence in our lives and service together.

Volume 9, Number 3

March 28 – April 4, 2021

Palm Sunday, March 28

10:00 a.m. Worship in-person and live stream from the home page of our website, pccrusa.org

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Worship in-person and live stream from the home page of our website, pccrusa.org

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the Latin word “mandatum”, which means commandment. It is traditionally the day the church receives Jesus' command found in John 13:34, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” It is also the night when, after sharing his last meal with the disciples, Jesus washes the disciples' feet. In remembrance of Jesus' last supper with the disciples, PCCR will celebrate Communion during the Maundy Thursday worship service.

Easter Sunday, April 4

10:00 a.m. Easter Worship and Communion in-person and live stream from the home page of our website, pccrusa.org



PCCR Directory

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; closed Fridays

Office Phone: 970-586-4404

Church Website: pccrusa.org

Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Chris Davis, 414-690-4488, pastor@pccrusa.org

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal, music@pccrusa.org

Choir Director/Sexton: Rich Dixon

Organist: Larry Gillum

Finance: Carolyn Hull, finance@pccrusa.org

Office Administrator: Terry Brigham, office@pccrusa.org



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter—whether it be your service in this church, providing a written article or photo, or helping assemble the finished product.

We appreciate your input!

The April Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, March 16**. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: office@pccrusa.org
Thanks!

© Contents copyright by the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies 2015-2021 and may not be used for any commercial purpose without written permission from PCCR.

Sunday Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

March 7 — 10:00 am, Communion

March 14 — 10:00 am, Daylight Savings Time Starts

March 21 — 10:00 am, Rev. Bruce Brackman, preaching

March 28— 10:00 am, Palm Sunday

Rev. Chris Davis, preaching Patti Dolezal, liturgist
Larry Gillum, organist

Virtual Worship:

Live-streamed service on our website:

Open the website, <https://pccrusa.org>

The livestream player is to the right, below the opening pictures.

The player will automatically start when the service begins.

No log in is needed, and your camera will not be turned on.

Join Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/86165181814>

Meeting ID: 861 6518 1814

Password: 80517

Or call in by telephone at any of the following numbers:

1-346-248-7799

1-669-900-6833

1-253-215-8782

1-301-715-8592

1-312-626-6799

1-929-436-2866

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

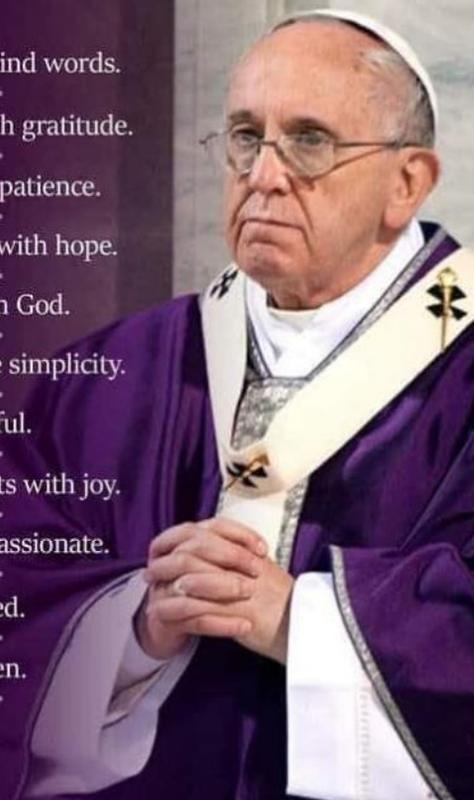
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



One Great Hour of Sharing

In today's world of disaster, hunger and the COVID-19 virus, millions of people across the globe lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and medical services. Along with churches worldwide, Presbyterian Church (USA) and our congregation participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing as a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. The special offering for this program runs from February 17th to April 4th. As you are able, please contribute to this worthy cause. Click here to donate by credit card: [Give to One Great Hour of Sharing](#)

One Great Hour of Sharing supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which is now working in Texas to provide relief in response to the weather and energy emergency. Your contributions will go to help our neighbors there.

One Great Hour of Sharing also helps sustain the work of Presbyterian Mission Coworkers, including the two mission coworker couples that our church sponsors with modest financial support. As we deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic here, we should recognize that our mission coworkers are hit especially hard. Let's keep them in our prayers and add to our support through One Great Hour of Sharing.



Jeremy and Luta Garbat-Welch serve with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They returned to the US last year for a home visit and for Luta to give birth. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, PC(USA) instituted a travel ban that currently extends through June 2021. As a result, Jeremy and Luta cannot go back to Malawi and are "stuck" in Kentucky, away from their Malawi community and their ministries in Africa. While they are relatively safe here, Malawi experienced a spike in virus infections in January, with new cases imported by Malawian workers returning from South Africa and bringing the South African variant of the virus with them. Fortunately, the new case count peaked at the end of January and continues to decline.

Chenoa Stock and her husband, José Luis Claire, are based in Peru, Chenoa as a mission coworker and José as a volunteer with the mission program. Peru is currently experiencing its third wave of virus infections. Peru has implemented heightened restrictions. Lima, where Chenoa, José and their two-year-old son live, is in the most restrictive zone. The city is under a 24-hour curfew, where individuals must remain at home for 23 of those 24 hours. Only one person from a family may leave the home during that hour to obtain essential services. Restaurants, shopping centers, cinemas, places of worship and many other places are closed.





**Ash Wednesday
Worship Service
February 17, 2021
at 12:00 noon**



Letter in Gratitude from Chenoa Stock, PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker for PERUSA in Peru:

Dear Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies,

I hope this finds you all well, safe, and healthy in these continued times of uncertainty.

I am writing to thank you for your generous donation in November in support of our ministry. My greatest apologies for the delay, but with so much change and challenge this past year, we have been receiving our donor reports quite late from the central office. But please know we are so very grateful for your continued accompaniment of us, both financially and through prayer.

Though this past year was a bit different than my other years of service in mission, God's love, justice and partnership were still present. We accompanied our partners through their challenges, their losses, their needs, and their prayers. They are stronger, knowing that they are accompanied by their PC (USA) partners and congregations. Thank you for being that foundation of strength and faith for both our family and our partners. We made it through 2020 and continue on in 2021 because of your presence and encouragement.

Thank you, again, for your support and prayers, and for walking with us and God's people of Peru.

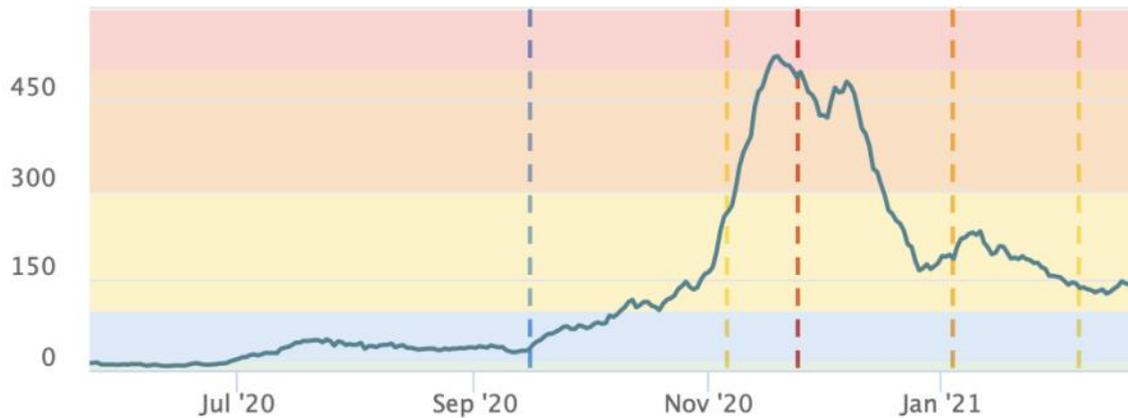
Peace and blessings,

Chenoa

Coping with Covid

As our country passes the milestone of 500,000 deaths due to the Covid-19 virus, we are coming up on the one-year anniversary of closing the church as a means of limiting exposure to that virus. Session met on Saturday, March 14th, and voted to suspend all indoor activities immediately. There was no worship service the following Sunday. This is where we have been with the virus in Larimer County, as reported on the County's Covid-19 Dashboard. The graphic shows the running 7-day total of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population. In case you are not familiar with this resource, click [here](#).

7-Day Rate of Covid-19 Cases per 100,000 Population in Larimer County



When we initially closed the church last February, the 7-day rate was fewer than 10 cases per 100,000 people in Larimer County. Estes Park had its first case a month later. We resumed outdoor worship services in the summer, when the 7-day case rate stabilized around 40 cases per 100,000, then moved to indoor services as the weather changed. We again suspended indoor worship in mid-November when infections were rapidly rising. The wave peaked on November 25th, with the 7-day rate over 500. We have since seen a decline, although with a noticeable bump a few weeks following Thanksgiving, another after the Christmas and New Year's holidays, and perhaps one more following the Superbowl.

On February 14th, precisely 11 months after we first closed, PCCR cautiously reopened the church for worship services. We no longer face the complicated rules that used to apply to houses of worship. Churches are now considered as essential services and can manage worship under just the basics: follow public health recommendations for sanitation, keep records for contact tracing, wear face masks indoors, and maintain 6-foot spacing between members of different households. We will follow those basics. In addition, worship services will not include congregational singing or a large choir, as the act of singing significantly increases chances of spreading the virus. And we will not gather indoors after the service for fellowship, also to minimize the opportunity for spreading the virus.

The decision to reopen was not taken lightly. The virus spreads most easily through indoor gatherings and is often transmitted by people who show no symptoms. More than 70% of our church population is in the vulnerable age group of 65 and older. While those in this demographic may not be more susceptible to catching the virus, if they do, they have the greatest chance of serious illness and death. 94% of the Covid-19 deaths in Larimer County are in this age group.

Everybody is welcome to attend church in person, but you can choose to continue with the virtual options – by Zoom as we have done for months, which allows for telephone dial-in, plus a new livestream version that will provide better sound and video. We will continue to send e-mails with the Zoom link and the bulletin. The link and the bulletin are also on the church website, pccrusa.org. The livestream alternative is available directly on the church website, with no need to link to another site, sign in, or provide a password. The player is just below the opening section with the sliding pictures. The livestream automatically starts at the beginning of the worship service. Recordings of each worship service will be available on the website shortly after the live service finishes, which will allow viewing at a time that may be more convenient.

The sanctuary can accommodate 50 people with 6-foot distancing between household groups. An additional 30 people can sit in Fellowship Hall. Choose whichever room you prefer. An usher will show the way and answer questions.

The church commits to providing choices to making attending church services as safe as possible. This is for the long term, as the virus will influence our lives for many more months.



What can we individually do to stay reasonably safe? Once again, the basics:

Choose how to attend church based on your comfort level for gathering in person.

Limit transmission of the virus by wearing a face mask and keeping a 6-foot distance between family groups.

Now that vaccines are available, get vaccinated as soon as you can. If you have questions about the vaccine, talk with your health provider. Members of the church's health advisory group can also provide information to back up what your health provider offers, and the church can help with transportation to a vaccination location should you wish. The medical professionals on the church's health advisory group are:

Mark Richards, MD, phone 970-586-9478

John Cooper, MD, phone 970-586-9458

Sandy Moren Lindberg, RN, FCN, phone 970-214-5062

**Sunday,
February 14
In-Person
Worship
Resumes**



**Welcome new member,
Jim Jonell!**



Into the Light—Lesson 7 **PW Bible Study—March 15**



Lesson Seven in the Bible study “Into the Light” delves into how “Creation laments.” In the additional material for the study, found in *Horizons Magazine*, Joyce Mackichan Walker looks at climate change and how David Attenborough has just recently started to speak out about climate change. He warns us that we need to work together internationally to save our planet.

I would strongly encourage you to view the 60 Minutes interview between Anderson Cooper and David Attenborough before we meet. It is just over 13 minutes long and can be found on YouTube. To access this interview, Google “David Attenborough and 60 Minutes” to view it. Attenborough also has a documentary titled *David Attenborough: A Life in Our Planet*, which is available through Netflix.

Karen Daugherty will lead us through this very interesting lesson, via Zoom, on Monday, March 15 at 12 noon. As always, I will open the Zoom session at 11:30 a.m. for those who would like to visit a bit before the lesson begins. The directions for joining this session are located next to this article. We would love to have you join us for this very timely topic.

PW Circle Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021 at 12:00 noon

Join PW Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93520280634>

Meeting ID: 935 2028 0634 Passcode: 80517

Or Dial by telephone: (Meeting ID: 935 2028 0634)

1-346-248-7799

1-312-626-6799

1-669-900-6833

1-929-436-2866

1-253-215-8782

1-301-715-8592

PW meets on 3rd Monday monthly.



Joyful Bells

Sunday, February 21, 2021

**Laying on of Hands during the
Ordination and Installation of new
Ruling Elder, Audrey TeSelle
Sunday, February 28, 2021**





March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	8 11:00am-Communications	9 1:00pm-Personnel Committee 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers 7:00pm-Deacons	10 9:30am-Finance 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	11 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:00pm-Health Advisory Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells	12	13
14  Daylight Savings Time Starts 8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	15 12:00pm-PW Circle Meeting and Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30pm-Session	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 4:00pm-Joyful Bells 	18 9:00am-Columbarium Committee 10:00am-Staff Meeting 4:00pm-Chancel Bells	19	20
21 8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	22	23	24 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	25 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:00pm-Health Advisory Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells	26	27
28 Palm Sunday  8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	29 9:00am-Membership and Hospitality Committee	30	31 4:00pm-Joyful Bells			



Note: Calendar events subject to change

Session Highlights ~ February 2021

- ◇ Heard from the Deacon liaison that many cards have been sent recently to members and a meal train has been established for one member who has had surgery.
- ◇ Noted that PCCR's application for a second Covid stimulus grant has been submitted.
- ◇ Noted that Personnel Committee is holding a training session with Staff regarding the new policies that have been recently adopted by Session.
- ◇ Received a letter from Rev. Bruce Brackman expressing his delight and gratefulness for the Thank You parade held for him.
- ◇ Approved the cancelling of the usual pancake supper and Palm Sunday brunch.
- ◇ Expressed appreciation to Building and Grounds for the excellent audio and visual quality of our virtual worship services.
- ◇ Approved the Conflict of Interest Policy.
- ◇ Held a lengthy discussion regarding when and how the church might open for expanded activities.



Deacon Highlights ~ February 2021

- ◇ The meeting was called to order by Verlene Thorp. She read a Bible verse to open.
- ◇ Thank you notes from two of the college students receiving gifts from the Deacons at Christmas were read.
- ◇ Devotions were given by Robert Sherrod. He read an essay entitled, "What About You?" The piece reminded us that even in the most troubling times as 2020 was, we can find help and confidence by following Jesus.
- ◇ Robert gave a report on the January Session meeting. They agreed to open the church for in-person worship starting on February 14.
- ◇ Verlene reminded the Deacons to get reimbursement for out-of-pocket purchases; one must fill out an expense form and give it to Carolyn Hull.
- ◇ Several cards were sent this past month to members having health issues or loss of family.
- ◇ The Sunshine Committee has made arrangements to prepare a meal for a member who recently had surgery. Several others were mentioned as needing some help in the future.
- ◇ The plans for memorial receptions were discussed. We will be ready to serve when it is approved by the Session.
- ◇ In-person communion will resume in March. The procedures were explained and discussed.
- ◇ In person delivery of materials to members not receiving emails was reviewed.
- ◇ Reminders were given for the surprise thank you parade for Pastor Bruce Brackman on February 20 and also for the Ash Wednesday service on February 17.
- ◇ In closing the meeting, Pastor Chris gave a prayer of benediction.

Finance Committee Report — January 2021

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT	MTD	YTD	YTD
JANUARY 2021	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 86,315	\$ 86,315	\$ 30,354
EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL	19,743	19,743	22,723
MISSION & OUTREACH	-	-	1,860
WORSHIP & MUSIC	-	-	358
BUILDING & GROUNDS	1,972	1,972	5,079
PRESBYTERY SUPPORT	-	-	1,054
OFFICE EXPENSES	724	724	1,625
LIBRARY	-	-	8
MEMBERSHIP & HOSPITALITY	(25)	(25)	188
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	77	77	100
SESSION	37	37	417
COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE	-	-	658
BOARD OF DEACONS	-	-	92
STEPHEN MINISTRY	-	-	225
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-	-	21
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 22,527	\$ 22,527	\$ 34,408
NET OPERATING TOTAL	\$ 63,788	\$ 63,788	\$ (4,053)
PASS THRU MISSIONS	\$ -		

Journeys Class

On Sunday, February 28, the Journeys Class will start a three-week series on non-violence, its religious roots, and its application in the last 100 years. We are fortunate to have Paul Strom, a retired ethics professor from CU, present the program and lead the discussions. While at CU, Professor Strom taught a semester-long course on non-violence.

- February 28 "Ahimsa"—A review of the strategies and philosophy of Mohandas Gandhi
- March 7 MLK's Christian basis for and application of non-violent strategies
- March 14 Gene Sharp--a contemporary appreciation of the transformative power of non-violence

Starting March 21 and lasting 4 weeks, the class will be discussing the theology of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French Jesuit priest, scientist, paleontologist, theologian, philosopher, and teacher. The classes will be led by Vince Brady, a retired religious educator.

Journeys Class meets via Zoom. You can use the link below to join the meeting. The Zoom session opens at 8:15 am each Sunday, with the program starting promptly at 8:30. The class adjourns at 9:45.

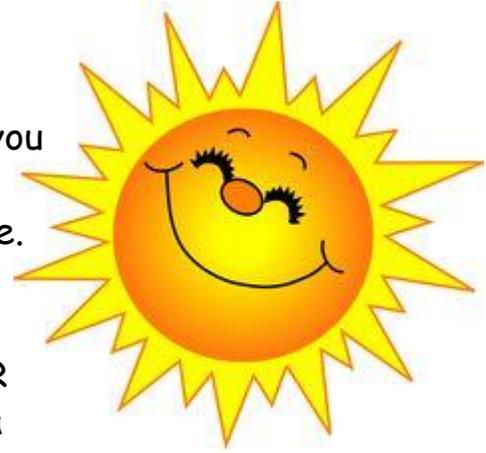
The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG50Wk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTCtIU09>
 Meeting ID: 845 741 2756 and Passcode: 80517 (only if necessary)

Deacons Do Dinner on the Doorstep



The Sunshine Committee, of the Deacons, is here to help you whenever life gets a little complicated and unmanageable. We would be happy to supply meals, rides, or just provide cheerful company to our PCCR family who are experiencing a few clouds in their life.



If you, or someone you know, would like some sunshine, please contact the church office (970-586-4404, office@pccrusa.org) or Pastor Chris (414-690-4488, pastor@pccrusa.org).

Next Steps in the Cautious Reopening of Church

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we began to hold in-person worship services in mid-February, with options to participate virtually by viewing a live stream of the service on our church website or by joining a Zoom broadcast.

The next step is to open the church for in-person meetings for church committees, including Stephen Ministers and the Deacons. Session approved doing this starting in March. The regular precautions of distancing and wearing face masks are required, and meetings will be limited to one hour. All in-person meetings will also provide virtual (Zoom) connections for those who are not yet comfortable with indoor gatherings. This can be done simply with a laptop computer connected to the church's wi-fi or with use of the church's AV equipment in Fellowship Hall.

The hybrid of in-person and virtual gatherings will be the norm for an indefinite time. The intent is to offer a safe environment for all to participate in church activities at each person's comfort level. People who wish to attend in person may do so. Individuals who are not ready to participate in gatherings at the church, whether for worship or committee meetings, may join through virtual connections.