



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

May 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 5



Grace and Grub is Back!

For fun, friendship, laughter, fellowship, and good food, join the *Grace and Grub* group!



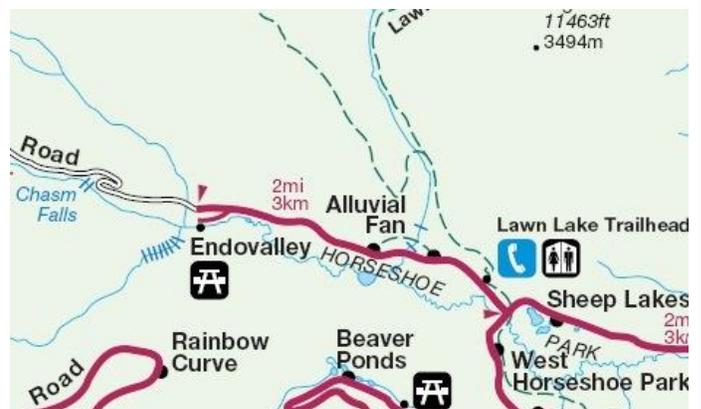
It has been months — literally well over a year — since we have gathered together in fellowship. *Grace and Grub* was formed as a way to connect with other church members by sharing a meal and enjoying each other's company. In prior years, from September through April, groups of 6-8 people have gathered in homes on the 4th Monday monthly. Participants rotate between homes each month and everyone takes a turn as host. In the past summer months, usually beginning Memorial Day weekend, *Grace and Grub* has been held at the Sprague Lake picnic area, weather permitting.

Join us for our first *Grace and Grub* picnic of the summer season at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 28 at the Endovalley picnic area.

All are welcome! Hotdogs, buns, condiments, and tableware will be provided. The rest of the meal is potluck. Bring a side dish to share, your own drinks, and lawn chairs.

Contact Joy Holcomb, joyholcomb11@gmail.com or 970-586-9600 for more information or to sign up. Joy will send an email in early June reminding the *Grace and Grub* group of this picnic. **Hope you can join the fun!**

Picnic Location: We will meet at the Endovalley picnic area located along the Fall River. Turn off Hwy 34 at the Old Fall River Road entrance, past Alluvial Fan at the west end of Horseshoe Park.



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 or providing a written article or photo.

We appreciate your input!

The June Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, May 18**. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: office@pccrusa.org
Thanks!

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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

May 2 — 10:00 am, Communion

May 9 — 10:00 am

May 16 — 10:00 am

May 23 — 10:00 am

May 30 — 10:00 am

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

Virtual Worship:

Livestreamed 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

Ruling Elders

Class of 2021:

Michael Moon, Peter Plaut, Audrey TeSelle, Pat Waltermire

Class of 2022:

Randy Brigham, Bob Holcomb, Stan Osborne, Mike Warren

Class of 2023:

Jan Boatman, Dot Rohrbaugh, Sherry Unruh, Sue Yowell

Clerk of Session: Barb Cole



“For the past 35+ years, caring ministry has been a hallmark of our Christian faith community. It is at the heart of all we do.

Let us know if we can be of help.”

Your PCCR Stephen Ministers

May 2021

Message from Pastor Chris Davis . . .

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." – **John 21:15-17***



Each year the Easter season gives us one of the most awkward conversations found in the entire Bible—the Jesus and Peter “do you love me?” dialogue. It is painful to read. With each round of “do you love me?” questions, poor Peter gets more and more frustrated and embarrassed. I imagine him looking over his shoulder hoping no one else is listening to Jesus as he asks Peter again, and again, and again if he loves him. In a last-ditch effort to make Jesus stop, Peter blurts out, “Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you!”

Biblical scholars have said Jesus asks Peter the question three times because Peter, on the night Jesus was arrested, denied on three different occasions ever knowing Jesus. It makes sense. Or at least there is symmetry to the argument. But I’m not buying it. Jesus doesn’t strike me as the eye for an eye kind of guy. Instead, I believe the reason Jesus asks the same question and gives the same command (BTW) three times is—it’s important.

In fact, it might be the most important thing a Christian does—Love God and help others. It’s pretty much what being a Christian is all about; it is that simple and it is that difficult. Perhaps it is why Jesus says it three times, so it sinks in. It is so simple we often forget, and it can be so difficult we often refuse to try. Jesus reminds us, again and again and again.

At the end of the awkward conversation, Jesus simply states: “Follow me.” It is an invitation he gives throughout the gospels. Love me. Feed my sheep. Follow me. Now, there is symmetry to live your life by.

In Christ’s Faithful Service,

Pastor Chris



Membership and Hospitality Welcomes You Back to Our PCCR After-Worship Fellowship

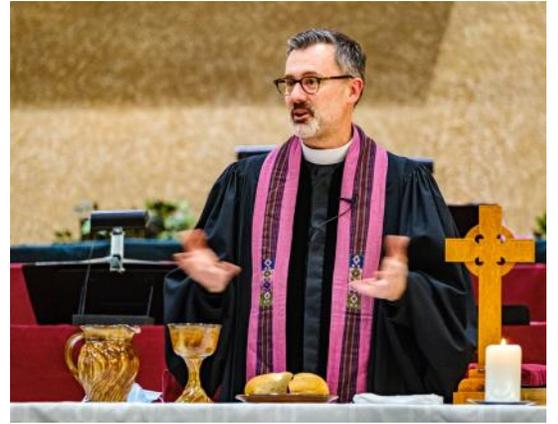
We’ve got the go-ahead to have a fellowship time after worship on Sundays. The Membership and Hospitality Committee will take on the responsibility of setting up and providing food items (Donuts and Dialogue) or (Cookies and Conversation) three times until the middle of June when we will once again assign our many church affiliated organizations to do the set up, provide goodies, and clean up. Since our budget (including all the coffee used) must carry us through the All-Church Picnic, the Pie Social, the Harvest Festival, the Holidays, and who knows what else, we ask for volunteers to host Fellowship Hour on May 16, May 23 and May 30. If no one volunteers, there will be no Fellowship on the volunteer Sundays. (What a sad thing that would be!)

Membership and Hospitality will take responsibility for May 2, May 9, and June 6. *We guarantee* we’ll show up.

If you are interested in hosting by yourselves or with others, please call **Sherry Unruh** at **913-383-1074** or email her at **unruhs4@icloud.com**.



**Maundy Thursday
Worship Service
April 1, 2021**



A Reading of Psalm 22 and Stripping of the Church



**Easter Sunday,
April 4, 2021**



Pentecost occurred on the festival of the spring wheat. Jerusalem streets were filled with devout Jews from all nations who had gathered there for the annual event. The disciples were also in Jerusalem, and at Pentecost received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The crowd heard the disciples speaking in many languages and wondered whether they were intoxicated. This was when Peter addressed the crowd, leading to conversion of some 3,000 and signifying the birth of the Church. Pentecost thus reminds us of the importance of the Great Commission, when Jesus said to the disciples, as reported by Matthew, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

GIVE TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING

and share in ministries that help our young people build deep, lifelong connections to their faith and communities.



The **Pentecost special offering** focuses on building faith in youth, continuing the theme of birth of the church and making disciples of all nations. Our congregation retains 40% of the contributions for use in programs that benefit children at risk. We will pass this on to the Estes Valley Restorative Justice program, as a premier local organization that makes a true difference in the life of young people in the Estes Valley. The remaining 60% supports the denomination’s programs for child advocacy, youth ministry, and young adult volunteer opportunities.

The **Pentecost special offering** extends through May 23 and unites us in a church-wide effort to support and inspire young people. Contributions can be made at worship services, dropped off or mailed to the church, or through our church website. Click [here](#) for the link.

The Meaning Behind Café Justo



Our Mission and Outreach sells coffee produced in Mexico by the Café Justo cooperative. Why Mexico and why Café Justo? Aside from the great quality of their coffee, the Café Justo cooperative was established with the help of border ministries to offer opportunities for employment in Mexico for would-be migrants to the United States. The coffee is grown primarily in the southern Mexico state of Chiapas and roasted in Agua Prieta, a town next to the US border in Sonora. Churches in the US support the cooperative through sales like ours.

Migration across the US-Mexico border has received considerable attention, focusing most recently on border crossings by unaccompanied children. What to do with these children is certainly a poignant question, but according to recent data from Pew Research, unaccompanied children comprise about 10% of the overall northern migration. The bulk of the migration today, some 70%, are single adults who are seeking work. This is the group that Café Justo addresses through creation of work opportunities in Mexico. They cannot solve the overall problem, but the effort is at least something. When we purchase their coffee, we help. We also get good coffee.

Café Justo coffee is available ground or as beans, with or without caffeine, at \$10 for a full pound. The coffee will be available at the church one Sunday each month and is always available for delivery. Contact Lisa Plaut by text or calling 214-766-9876 with your order.

How We Attend Church at PCCR

Before the pandemic closed the physical church in early 2020, attendance on a typical Sunday was about 120 to 130 people. We began virtual services using Zoom in March of 2020. The first service had 31 video and telephone dial in connections. At least half of the screens included two people, which has continued to be the pattern. On that basis, we probably had around 45 people participate at the beginning of PCCR's virtual church. This grew to 77 connections on Easter, for estimated attendance of about 115 to 120 individuals. The average number of connections was 58 from March through June, for an estimated weekly attendance of about 90 people. We combined virtual with in person services outdoors last September and with indoor services in October. The outdoor services drew up to 95 people. COVID cases surged in November, resulting in another closing of the physical church. During that closure, average Zoom participation was 66 connections, suggesting that an average of about 100 people continued to participate through a virtual connection.

Today we have returned to a combination of in person and virtual services and have added a livestreaming broadcast that offers a better video and audio experience. Here's an interesting picture of church attendance from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, using data available from Vimeo (the livestream host), Zoom and records of in person attendance.

Date	Service	In Person Attendance	Zoom Attendance (Screens)	Livestream Attendance (Screens)	Estimated Ttl Virtual Attendance	Estimated Live+Virtual Attendance	Later Recorded Views
17-Feb	Ash Wednesday	27	22	22	66	93	18
21-Feb	Sunday worship	47	46	17	95	142	28
28-Feb	Sunday worship	35	42	39	122	157	23
7-Mar	Sunday worship	51	37	38	113	164	24
14-Mar	Sunday worship	0	60	0	90	90	0
21-Mar	Sunday worship	46	37	39	114	160	10
26-Mar	Jansen Memorial	30	0	4	6	36	17
28-Mar	Sunday worship	52	27	45	108	160	20
1-Apr	Maundy Thursday	27	6	19	38	65	23
4-Apr	Easter Sunday	96	21	62	125	221	26

In person attendance includes congregation, pastor, organist, staff, bell ensemble and the small choir group.
 Zoom and Livestream attendance is screens and dial-in; total people estimated 50% greater, on basis half the screens have 2 individuals.
 Sunday March 14th was a snow day and church services were presented only on Zoom.

Data from Vimeo also gives us a picture of where people were when they connected to the livestream service, and what type of device they used to make the connection. This shows just the livestream usage and does not include Zoom.

Location Where Event Was Viewed			
Colorado	377	Georgia	2
Illinois	20	Nebraska	1
Arizona	18	New Hamp.	1
Kansas	8	Oklahoma	1
Texas	5	Washington	1
S. Dakota	6	Wyoming	1
California	3	Minnesota	1
Iowa	3	Florida	1
Michigan	3		
Wisconsin	2	No location	55
Oregon	2		
Missouri	2	Mexico	2

Livestream Users	
82	
Device Used	
Computer	317
Phone	106
Tablet	81
TV app	8

Into the Light—Lesson 9 **PW Bible Study—May 17**



Our final Bible study lesson for the *Into the Light* series will be held on Monday, May 17, at 12 noon via Zoom. Lisa Plaut will very ably guide us through Lesson 9 starting on page 83. According to the lesson, “Hope is an essential part of lament. Hope is both the motivation for lament and its result...Our hope is in the God with whom we are, and have been, in relationship.”

Please join us for the final lesson in what has been a very interesting and very relevant Bible study for these challenging times. Note that the Zoom session opens at 11:30 a.m. to allow everyone a chance to visit before the meeting begins promptly at 12 noon. The information for joining via Zoom is in the box next to this article.

The Bible study booklet for next fall has arrived in the mailboxes of those who subscribe to *Horizons Magazine*. The study is titled “What My Grandmothers Taught Me.” In this upcoming Bible study “we are invited into the family stories that helped shape Jesus and that, therefore, shape us too.” We can look forward to another fun, interesting and rewarding Bible study.

PW Circle Meeting

Monday, May 17, 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, September through May.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

On June 13, we look forward to supporting the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women, which will provide much needed funds to three projects: **Garden Gate Ranch, Inc.** which supports safe housing and restorative and transitional services for sexually-exploited women and their children in Des Moines, Iowa; **Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc.** which provides a place of welcome to diverse worshipping communities and innovative community services in Stone Mountain, Georgia; **Nkhoma Mission Hospital**, located in southeastern Africa, which offers affordable, accessible healthcare services for all. For almost 100 years, this offering has provided life-giving grants to mission projects throughout the world. More details regarding this special offering will appear in next month’s newsletter.

The Membership and Hospitality Committee at PCCR Welcomes You Back to a Sliver of Normalcy!

All PCCR Members: Please mark your calendars for our **All-Church Picnic on Sunday, July 11, 2021**, immediately after worship. The picnic will be held at the Lake Estes Marina Shelter. As is traditional, the Membership and Hospitality Committee will provide the great hotdogs from the “Y,” buns, condiments, paper goods, lemonade, and water. Members of the committee will be serving cafeteria-style the pot-luck dishes that you all will be providing. You point at the dish you’d like and we’ll fill your plates.

Please use the suggested list below so we don’t have a million desserts and no potato salad or baked beans. (We’re all partial to potato salad on this committee.)

- A through C Salads, including potato
- D through H Potato chips, Cheetos, Fritos, etc.
- I through N Baked beans or other vegetable dishes
- O through R Desserts
- S through Z Miscellaneous Specialties (surprise us!)



May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)			3:00 pm-Mission and Outreach 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:30pm-Health Advisory Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am- Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	11:00am-Communications	1:00pm-Personnel Committee 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers 7:00pm-Deacons	9:30 am-Finance 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	4:00pm-Chancel Bells		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	12:00pm-PW Circle Meeting and Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30pm-Session	Newsletter Deadline	4:00pm-Joyful Bells	9:00am-Columbarium Committee 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:30pm-Health Advisory Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells		1:30pm—Keith Machin Memorial Service
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	9:00am-Membership and Hospitality Committee		4:00pm-Joyful Bells	4:00pm-Chancel Bells		
30	31					
8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (In-person, Livestream, and Zoom)	Church Office Closed <i>Memorial Day</i> 					



Note: Calendar events subject to change

Session Highlights ~ April 2021

- ◇ Approved the Presbyterian Women's Birthday offering.
- ◇ Authorized a survey of the congregation during May regarding those who have received the Covid vaccine.
- ◇ Voted to allow the Girl Scouts and the Ballet Renaissance group to begin meeting in our building again when school starts.
- ◇ Voted to permit Grace and Grub to start meeting again on the fourth Monday of June at EndoValley.
- ◇ Discussed allowing singing by everyone at worship services. Current health guidelines would not permit this.
- ◇ Received a report from Building and Grounds regarding replacement of the mansard roofing.
- ◇ Heard from Building and Grounds that the snow plowing budget will probably be expended after the April 19 snow.
- ◇ Learned from Building and Grounds that the parking lot will require additional crack sealing.
- ◇ Moved to raise the pledge line item in the budget to \$245,000 because of an increase in pledging units received in the first quarter of the year.
- ◇ Discussed resuming fellowship time on the patio following worship services.



Deacon Highlights ~ April 2021

- ◇ Judy Portman, co-moderator, opened the meeting. It was held on Zoom because of the late winter snowstorm.
- ◇ Devotions were given by Marilyn Irwin, who read a devotion from her friend Karen who wrote about how Jesus might not have wanted to end his life on a cross, but because he did so, he took away our sins.
- ◇ A report about the last meeting of the Session was given by Robert Sherrod.
- ◇ Joys and concerns were offered. Many cards to members having challenges in their lives were sent by Susie Manhoff during the past month.
- ◇ Tami Scace reported that there were no requests for meals this past month but that, if anyone was in need of meals or help, the committee was ready to supply what is needed.
- ◇ Memorial receptions are suspended until further notice.
- ◇ No communion services can be given at Good Samaritan yet, but Pastor Chris was in contact with their chaplain and perhaps very soon communion services can be reinstated.
- ◇ The communion committee provides the bread for the communion table that the pastor breaks, but we will continue to use the individual containers with the elements until further notice.
- ◇ Deacons called by phone to people who do not have email addresses to tell them how to connect to the service by the Presbytery that was aired on April 11.
- ◇ There was no old or new business.
- ◇ Pastor Chris gave a prayer as benediction.

Financial Information March 2021			
	February	Year to Date	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$29,732	\$160,173	\$91,063
Total Expenses	\$41,637	\$96,540	\$103,224
Net Total	-\$11,905	\$63,633	-\$12,160
Revenues include SBA PPP Forgiveness \$49,585			



Your Finance Committee met on April 14, 2021 at the church.

The pledge income expectation, upon Session approval, will be increased to \$245,080. The year-to-date revenue far exceeds the budget because of the federal loan forgiveness monies of \$49,585 and several pledges that have been paid for the year. Both are included in the revenue statistics. As the year progresses, the revenues will more accurately track to the budget.

More importantly, the pledges have been consistently on schedule and the expenses have been well under control. One expense that will exceed its budget is Building and Grounds, because of the amount of snow plowing required due to the heavy spring snows.

Thanks to each of you, our church finances are in good shape.

On a related subject, you recall that the Building and Grounds Committee has been upgrading the sound and video capabilities during the pandemic in order for the congregation to stay connected. Those efforts are paying huge dividends. During Easter week we had 367 views from 11 states and 2 countries.

Bob Holcomb

Chairperson, Finance Committee

Thank you!

A big thanks to Bob Holcomb and Jay Smith for their service on the Foundation Committee over the past several years. We appreciate your service!

Journeys Class

Journeys Class is open to anyone who is interested.

On May 2, Don Sessions will present a program on The Ontology of Relationships: Spirituality, Poetic Language, and Transformation.

Starting on May 9 and running through June 20, the Journeys Class will be studying the Ten Commandments and their application to today. The study will be based on a DVD program featuring Sister Joan Chittister, titled "The Ten Commandments – Laws of the Hearts".

Journeys Class meets via Zoom. You can use the link below to join the meeting. The Zoom session opens at 8:15 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=UG50Wk5yV1R2b1ICVmtENnUxTctlUT09>

Meeting ID: 845 741 2756 and Passcode: 80517 (only if necessary)



Safe Practices

During the Ongoing Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over, despite progress in vaccinations. We need to continue our efforts to keep our church a safe place. The time will come when we can safely relax these precautions. We are just not there yet. Until then, be mindful of taking care of ourselves and each other.

When at church for a worship service:

- Wear a face mask throughout the service and whenever you are inside the church. Be sure the mask covers both your mouth and nose.
- Keep at least six feet between your household group and others as you come into the church, as you select where you will sit, and as you leave after the service. The seating in the church has been arranged to maintain that distance and generally allows up to three people to sit together. If you have a larger group, please ask the ushers to find you an appropriate place for the larger number. Try not to congregate in the aisles as you leave after the service. Socialize outside, in the fresh air, for fellowship. Hold back on the hugs and handshakes.
- Resist the natural urge to sing the hymns and doxology during the service. Instead, recite the words to yourself and listen to the organ, piano, bells, and small group of chancel singers.

When at church for a meeting:

- Wear a face mask during the meeting.
- Take a seat that is six feet or more from other people. The tables and chairs in the library have been set up for this spacing. Move the chairs as needed in Fellowship Hall.
- If weather permits, open some of the windows or outside doors to improve the ventilation.
- Limit the duration of the meeting to one hour.
- When the meeting is over, go outside for follow-on discussion and fellowship.

For both worship services and other group activities, **remember that there are good options to attending in person.** Make a conscious choice of how to attend.

1. **Livestream**—You can participate in worship by watching the livestream broadcast at home. It's easy – just go to the church website, pccrusa.org on your computer, tablet, or smartphone to find the video player.
2. **Zoom**—You can still login to Zoom conferencing on your computer if you do not wish to attend a meeting or worship in person.
3. **Phone in to Zoom**—If you do not have Internet access, you can dial in by telephone to the Zoom meeting that is also set up for the service.

The church will continue to make these choices available indefinitely, and our livestream worship will be a permanent part of PCCR's outreach ministry. Participate at your comfort level. Do what is safe for you.