



Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies

January 2022 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 10, Number 1

Blue Christmas



Tuesday, December 21, 2021
(the longest night of the year)
5:00 p.m.

This service is co-sponsored by
the Estes Park Interfaith Alliance.



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

1700 Brodie Avenue, Estes Park, Colorado 80517



Pastor
Chris Davis

Rev. Ron
Bockhaus,
Shepherd of
the Mountains
Lutheran
Church



Blue Christmas A Service for Healing and Hope



Rev. Bruce Brackman,
retired Lutheran Pastor

Rev. Brian Schaffer,
Executive Director of
Crossroads Ministry





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: Rich Dixon

Organist: Larry Gillum

Finance: Carolyn Hull, finance@pccrusa.org

Office Administrator:

Terry Brigham, office@pccrusa.org

Paper copies of the newsletter are available in the narthex.

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 February Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, January 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:

January 2 — 10:00 am, Communion, Rev. Bruce Brackman

January 9 — 10:00 am, Ordination and Installation of New Officers

January 16 — 10:00 am

January 23 — 10:00 am, Rev. Bruce Brackman

January 30 — 10:00 am

The Rev. Chris Davis, pastor

Patti Dolezal, liturgist

Larry Gillum, organist



Virtual Worship:

View through Livestream service on our website:

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

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

The player will automatically start when the service begins.

Sunday Bulletin: The current worship bulletin appears directly below the livestream and video recordings box. Simply click on "View Bulletin".

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

Meeting ID: 861 6518 1814

Password: 80517

Or call in by telephone: **1-346-248-7799**



Help with Facebook

Our church could really benefit from having a vital, current Facebook site. The site is established, but we need help maintaining it and posting updates. Sharing news of our church, worship services, and social events may be just the connection someone needs.

Facebook is one way we can provide an outreach ministry, inviting others to be a part of our church family as well as keeping our own members informed. If you are willing to help, please contact Terry or Pastor Chris at the church office.



Lighting the Advent Candles

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Verlene Thorp and Pat Waltermire

January 2022

Message from Pastor Chris Davis . . .

On Sunday, January 9, our church will ordain and install seven members of PCCR to serve in the offices of deacon and elder. In the Presbyterian tradition there are three ordainable offices: Minister of Word and Sacrament, Ruling Elder, and Deacon. When a person is called to serve in one of these offices, we believe they are set aside to serve the church in a particular way. This is an important belief. Elders, deacons, and ministers are set aside, not above the congregation for service. There is no hierarchy in the Presbyterian Church. Officers work within and side by side the congregation, serving it in unique ways.

As we move into 2022 my question for you is: how will you set aside your life for Christ's service in the coming year? As Presbyterians we believe in the Priesthood of all Believers (1 Peter 2:4-6). All of us, not just ministers, elders, and deacons, have been set aside by God to serve Christ's Church. Do we take this call seriously?



This January, I invite you to set aside part of your life for this sacred work. In doing so, I ask you to resist the temptation of looking at the church calendar and picking an activity or committee to get involved in. Instead, pray. Spend time in meditation with God and listen for God's particular calling in your life. The church should not become another checked box on our already overbooked calendars. The church is where we share and apply our gifts freely within and for the community. Through prayer, we join God in discerning how our gifts best serve the community of faith.

It is an exciting time in the life and ministry of PCCR. I look forward to the coming New Year as we continue to explore our faith. May God guide and bless each of us as we listen for our calls to ministry and set aside our gifts.

In Christ's Faithful Service,
Pastor Chris



Newly Elected Church Officers

A congregational meeting was held on December 5, 2021 — one of the purposes being to elect church officers for the Class of 2024.

New Ruling Elders for the Class of 2024 are:

Jim Nussbaumer, Bill Solms, and Pat Waltermire

Thank you to the outgoing Ruling Elders, Class of 2021:

Michael Moon, Peter Plaut, Audrey TeSelle, Pat Waltermire

New Deacons for the Class of 2024 are:

Bill Almond, Mimi Hardendorf, Bonnie Vanderveen, and Diane Palmer

Thank you to the outgoing Deacons, Class of 2021:

Marilyn Irwin, Carolyn Kramer, Judy Portman, Judy Schaffer

Gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Response to Midwestern Tornadoes



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Earlier in December, powerful tornadoes ripped across Kentucky and three other states. More than 100 people lost their lives, and many communities were devastated.

Each year, the Mission and Outreach budget includes money in an emergency relief fund. We had not spent any of the money at the time the tornadoes struck. Our Mission and Outreach committee unanimously agreed to send all of the fund (which this year totaled \$3,600) to our denomination's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for use in relief efforts in the towns hard hit by the tornadoes. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

In the wake of catastrophic events such as these tornadoes, it is the role of people of faith to shine as light in these bleakest times. We are called to be the hands and feet of God to help rebuild the lives of those who experienced loss of homes, businesses, and livelihood. We stand with them, and stand together, bearing witness by our gifts and prayers that God is indeed incarnate among us.

The gift from the church was possible because of the generosity of our congregation and our budget process which had staged the money for just this sort of emergency. We also support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance annually through the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Christmas Joy Offering



Each year, our church participates in the four special offerings of our denomination. The Christmas Joy Offering was held in December. Contributions this year totaled \$2,033.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. The offering delivers financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers, and provides assistance to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

In memory of Kathleen Black.....

Twelve Presbyterian Women from our congregation gathered via zoom to share some of their special memories of PCCR member, Kathleen Black, who passed away on December 16. Her favorite hymn was "God of our Life." She loved the Psalms and Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*



Some memories of Kathleen that were shared:

- ◆ She sent beautiful notes which were so much appreciated
- ◆ It was wonderful to sit by Kathleen in choir due to her rich alto voice
- ◆ She loved to sing, as long as it wasn't a solo
- ◆ She was a great contributor to any Bible Study (she was in several groups)
- ◆ She was a friend to everyone and always made an effort to invite new members to PW
- ◆ She loved attending Pilgrimage and it uplifted her spirits as well as her faith
- ◆ She was always willing to pick someone up who needed transportation
- ◆ She was a great teacher, although she never thought herself as one
- ◆ She used kindness even when she needed to correct someone
- ◆ She brought cookies and treats to every meeting and always sent out post cards
- ◆ She was proud to be a Hamilton and wore her plaid for Scottish Fest
- ◆ Words used to describe Kathleen: thoughtful, kind, caring, faithful, loving, nurturing, generous, inspiration, dedication, an institution, friend

It is with gratitude that we remember Kathleen: "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow." by Melody Beattie - author and journalist

LONG-TIME BORDER MINISTRY SERVANT DIES ON CHRISTMAS

At the December meeting of PCCR's Mission and Outreach Committee, it was decided to send a \$1,000 contribution to the ministry site Compañeros en Misión, which is part of Presbyterian Border Region Outreach (PBRO), a ministry of our denomination, Presbyterian Church (USA). The ministry is based in Nogales, Arizona, and works on the U.S./México border in the state of Sonora. This is where PCCR members Dave and Sue Thomas served for 5 years as U.S. coordinators, alongside their Mexican partner and co-worker, **Rev. Dr. Jorge Pazos Aragón, M.D.**



For the past couple of years, Rev. Dr. Pazos has been coordinating a ministry to migrants, providing food, clothing, and spiritual support to people who are fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries, as well as those who have been deported by U.S. authorities.

Sadly, Rev. Dr. Jorge Pazos Aragón, M.D. passed away on Christmas morning, December 25, after having been hospitalized with COVID since December 1. The ministry that he established and coordinated, which includes a small mission church in Nogales, Sonora, will continue.



*Christmas Eve
Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 24, 2021

5:00 p.m.





The Service of Candlelighting

*“Silent Night,
Holy Night”*



Photos credit: Peter Plaut



What My Grandmothers Taught Me

PW Circle Meeting & Bible Study – January 2022

I hope each of you enjoyed a meaningful Christmas season and pray that the New Year will bring us back together again in person. We will be meeting on Zoom in January, since we don't yet know how the Omicron variant will affect our community, but will continue to make decisions on a month-by-month basis as we move into 2022.

We are looking forward to Lesson 5 of our Bible study, led by Mary Zollman, titled "Ruth and Redemption." It starts on page 45 of the study book. In our lesson, Ruth and Naomi, who start out empty and bereft, are filled and redeemed through the honesty and care they show one another. The foreign daughter-in-law is praised for her faithfulness and in the end, Ruth is shown to be the main reason King David's family line can continue.

We would love to have you join us for what promises to be another interesting and informative discussion. The lesson will begin at 12 noon, but you are welcome to join the Zoom session at 11:30 a.m. to chat with other members of the group before the lesson begins.

Instructions for joining Zoom →

If you would like a study book or have a question about joining via Zoom feel free to contact Karen Daugherty (312-810-3671 or jk@daughertys.us).

PW January Circle Meeting

Monday, January 17, 2022

Gather at 11:30 am; Lesson at 12:00 noon

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 935 2028 0634 Passcode: 80517

Or Dial by telephone: 1-346-248-7799

PW meets on 3rd Monday monthly.

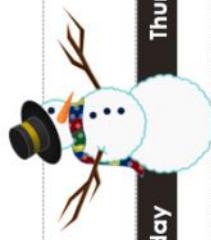
Gratitude and Glezen Dinner

Presbyterian Women are deeply grateful to our congregation for their generous support of the Thank Offering this fall. The total amount collected was \$1443 and will be used to support women and children, in the United States and internationally, to receive the care, support and sustenance they need to move forward with their lives.

Pledges from the PW membership during 2021 allowed the PW Board to send a year-end gift of \$150 each, to three different organizations in Estes Park who support women and children in our own community. The gifts were sent to Estes Valley Crisis Advocates, EVICS, and Lifelong Learning Preschool of Estes Park. Many thanks to all who pledged to PW this past year.

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of Covid restrictions for January, the PW Board has made the difficult decision to cancel the Glezen Dinner for 2022. Margaret Glezen was a long-time member of PCCR and very active in Presbyterian Women. She left a trust fund to provide a Holiday dinner to the "singles" in the church that might not have any such holiday with friends. Gradually there were so few "singles" who were not homebound, Presbyterian Women decided to make the event for everyone in the church. For the past several years the Glezen Dinner has been held in January and included all members of the church in the potluck. While we are unable to hold the event again this year, we do want to express our gratitude for the thoughtfulness and generosity of Margaret Glezen and her family.

January 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	Church Office Closed 8:30am-Journeys Class 10:00am-Worship	3 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 5:00pm-EVICS, ESL	4 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 5:00pm-EVICS, ESL	5 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	6 4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mama's 6:45pm-Chancel Choir	7 9:00am-Card Making Group
9	8:15am-Adult Bible Study 8:30am-Journeys Class 10:00am- Worship – Ordination and Installation of New Officers	10 9:30am-Finance 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers 5:00pm-EVICS, ESL 7:00pm-Deacons	11 12:30pm-Personnel Com. 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 4:30pm-Joyful Bells	12 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	13 8:30am-EPNRC Board 10:00am-Mission Comm. 3:30pm-Health Advisory Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mama's	14 15
16	8:15am-Adult Bible Study 8:30am-Journeys Class 10:00am-Worship	17 Church Office Closed 12:00pm-PW Bible Study 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 6:30pm-Session	18 Newsletter Deadline 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 5:00pm-EVICS, ESL 6:30pm-Chamber Singers	19 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	20 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:00pm-Columbarium Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mama's 6:45pm-Chancel Choir	21 22
23	8:15am-Adult Bible Study 8:30am-Journeys Class 10:00am-Worship	24 2:30pm-Ballet Renaissance 5:00pm-EVICS, ESL 6:30pm-Chamber Singers	25 4:00pm-Joyful Bells	26 3:30pm-Health Advisory Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mama's 6:45pm-Chancel Choir	27 28	29
30	8:15am-Adult Bible Study 8:30am-Journeys Class 10:00am-Worship	31 9:00 am-Membership and Hospitality Committee 4:00pm-Ballet Renaissance				

Note: **Calendar events subject to change**

Session Highlights ~ December 2021

- ◊ Held a joint Evensong service with incoming church officers.
 - ◊ Set February 6 as the date for the Annual Meeting of PCCR.
 - ◊ Scheduled January 9 for the ordination and installation of new church officers.
 - ◊ Received the recommendation from the Health Advisory Committee that no changes be made at this time in Covid 19 safety practices. Masks will continue to be required in the church.
 - ◊ Adopted the proposed budget of \$59,000 deficit for 2022 to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 6 — thanks to the successful stewardship campaign.
 - ◊ Elected Jack Boatman to serve as church treasurer for 2022 and Barbara Cole to serve as Clerk of Session for 2022.
 - ◊ Noted that we still need to find someone to shovel snow from the sidewalks during the winter. The snowplow contractor does not do sidewalks. A similar problem will face us in the summer, when we need a landscape maintenance person.
 - ◊ Heard from retiring Elder Peter Plaut that we need to find someone to operate the church Facebook page.
 - ◊ Following the Christmas Eve service, light refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall.
 - ◊ Commended the Mission and Outreach committee for their diligent work on several fronts: sent \$800 to Malawi for their special Christmas dinner; sent \$1,000 to Dr. Aragon in Nogales to help with his work with immigrants at the border; sent their entire emergency funds budget (\$3,600) to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help those impacted by the tornadoes of two weeks ago in Kentucky and surrounding areas.
 - ◊ Extended big “thank you’s” to the outgoing Elders Peter Plaut, Mike Moon, and Audrey TeSelle.
-

Deacon Highlights ~ December 2021



- ◊ Co-moderator Verlene Thorp opened the meeting with a prayer and passed out Christmas bags of chocolate candy made by Judy Schaffer.
- ◊ Devotions were given by Carolyn Kramer. She read an essay entitled, “Why is Silent Night Such a Popular Christmas Carol?”
- ◊ There was no session report.
- ◊ The financial report for the Deacons was distributed. The Deacons stayed under budget for 2021. The amount for communion was raised because providing the individual elements, necessary because of Covid, is more expensive.
- ◊ Several cards will be sent to members facing challenges and health concerns.
- ◊ No meals were sent in the past month and one Be Better Basket was delivered by Verlene.
- ◊ No memorial receptions are planned at this time. The “chain of command” was reviewed. Deacons were reminded to wash and put away any dishes used for a memorial reception.
- ◊ Individual elements will be used for communion until further notice.
- ◊ Deacons will serve the Fellowship after worship on December 19. Assignments for what to bring were discussed.
- ◊ At the January meeting on January 11, 2022, the new class of Deacons will take over. Deacons who are leaving are: Carolyn Kramer, Judy Schaffer, Judy Portman, and Marilyn Irwin.

Financial Information November 2021

*Thank you to our PCCR congregation for support for
the mission and ministry of our church.*

	November	January to November	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$58,318	\$405,146	\$341,699
Total Expenses	\$24,765	\$341,713	\$378,487
Net Total	\$33,553	\$63,433	-\$36,788

Revenues include SBA PPP Forgiveness \$49,585



Journeys

In January, Journeys will be meeting each Sunday morning via Zoom. All are welcome.

The first two Sundays we will be hearing from several members as they tell their own faith journey story. It is amazing how each story is unique and enlightening. The third and fourth Sundays will be another look at racism in America. On the fifth Sunday we will return to the popular **Living the Questions** video series. The videos include presentations by thirty scholars and theologians.

The schedule is:

January 2 Two Personal Faith Journey Stories

January 9 Two Personal Faith Journey Stories

January 16 Book discussion: *My Grandmother's Hands*, by Resmaa Menakem

January 23 "Towards a Framework for Repair", Resmaa Menakem & Robin DiAngelo

January 30 Living the Questions: Restoring Relationships

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. We adjourn at 9:45.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTCtIUT09>

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

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
² a time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
 a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
 a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
 a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
 a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

