



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

Volume 10, Number 12

## December 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.

# December Events

Mark your calendar and join us!

### GRACE AND GRUB



Saturday, December 3  
10:00 am  
Fellowship Hall

### CHAMBER SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 4  
2:00 pm



### ESTES PARK CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday, Dec. 10  
2:00 pm  
& 7:00 pm



### ORATORIO SOCIETY CONCERT

Friday, Dec 16 at 7:00 pm  
& Saturday, Dec 17 at 2:00 pm



### BLUE CHRISTMAS

Contemplative Service:  
Wednesday, Dec. 21  
5:30 pm



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Lessons and Carols  
Saturday, December 24  
5:00 pm  
Also on Livestream



### CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25  
10:00 am



### NEW YEARS' DAY COMMUNION

Sunday, January 1  
10:00 am

# 2023



## 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

**Financial Manager:** Carolyn Hull, finance@pccrusa.org

**Office Administrator:** Meredith Ishida, office@pccrusa.org

## Worship Schedule



**Worship in the Sanctuary:**

**December 4** — 10:00 am, Communion, The Rev. Bruce Brackman

**December 11** — 10:00 am

**December 18** — 10:00 am

**December 21** — 5:30 pm Blue Christmas Service

**December 24** — 5:00 pm, Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve Service

**December 25** — 10:00 am

**January 1** — 10:00 am, Communion, The Rev. Bruce Brackman

**The Rev. Chris Davis, pastor**

**Larry Gillum, organist**

**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".



**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 January Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, December 20. Please send your pictures and stories to: [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org) Thanks!**



Special thanks to Peter Plaut for his contributions of the beautiful photos that grace this newsletter.

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## Time for a New Church Directory!

If you have not yet done so, please let us know if you have **any changes** to your contact information (phone number, email address, home mailing address, photo)

Thank you!

Meredith, 970-586-4404 or office@pccrusa.org



## We're back on Facebook!

After a few years of inactivity, our Facebook page is once again active! Facebook is a branch of our outreach ministry, another way we invite others to be a part of our church family as well as keep our own members informed.



Check out our page (you don't need a Facebook account) for the most recent updates and articles. Be sure to "Follow" us and share any posts that you particularly enjoy or that others might find helpful: <https://www.facebook.com/PCCR1>

If you have ideas for articles or if you take any photos that we could share on our page, please contact Meredith at the church office. We'd love to hear your thoughts!

**December 2022**

**Message from Pastor Chris Davis . . .**

**What Do I Want For Christmas?**

**What do I want for Christmas?  
I want to kneel in Bethlehem,  
the air thick with alleluias,  
the angels singing  
that God is born among us.**

**In the light of the Star,  
I want to see them come,  
the wise ones and the humble.**

**I want to see them come  
bearing whatever they treasure  
to lay at the feet  
of him who gives his life.**

**What do I want for Christmas?  
To see in that stable  
the whole world kneeling in thanks  
for a promise kept:  
new life.**

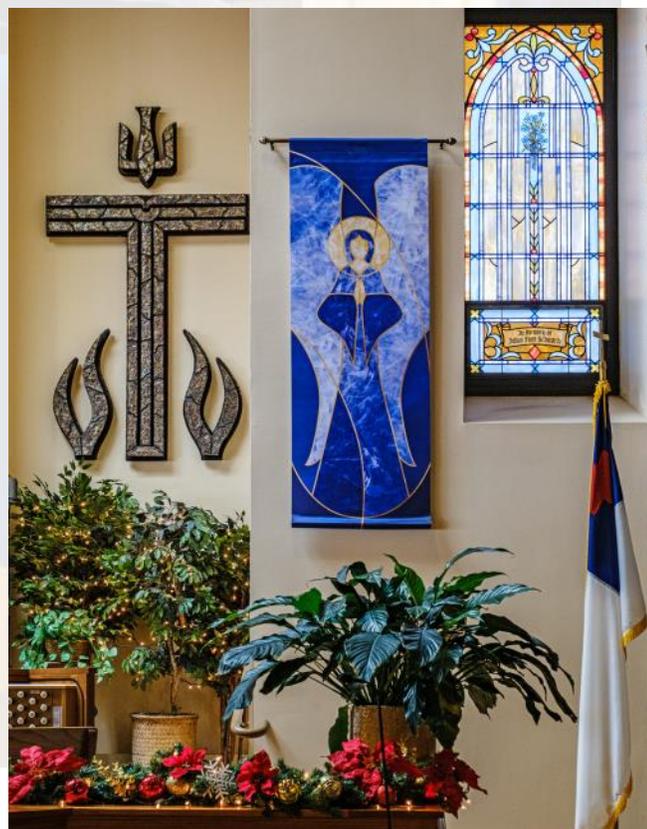
**For in his nativity  
we find ours.**

**~ Ann Weems  
Kneeling in Bethlehem**

**The Staff of Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies  
wishes the congregation and Estes Park community  
a light-filled Advent and  
a joyous Christmas.**

*In Christ's Faithful Service,  
Pastor Chris Davis  
Meredith Ishida  
Larry Gillum*

*Carolyn Hull  
Patti Dolezal  
Rich Dixon*





CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



When we gather with friends and family at Christmas, we celebrate the many gifts that we have both given and received. Looking toward the Star of Bethlehem, we give thanks for the blessings of the past year and anticipate a future filled with hope and possibility. We live in hope that the Christmas gift we offer is exactly what that special person has been hoping for. Yet for those of us celebrating Advent's expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given is the one we receive in Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

*The perfect gift.*

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need because of changing health situations or emergency circumstances. Our gifts restore hope and stability through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. Our gifts support a bright future with enhanced opportunities for students to grow and build lives of faith, honing talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your generous gifts — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray~*

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us, live in us, live among us, and lead us to where we may know you as the Word made flesh and The Perfect Gift. Amen.*

The PCCR Christmas Joy Offering will be collected during Worship on December 11 and December 18.

## Thank Offering

Presbyterian Women would like to thank the congregation for their wonderful support of the Thank Offering, collected on November 6. If you were unable to participate in the service, you can still contribute to the offering by writing a check to "PW of PCCR" and marking it for Thank Offering or by going online and making a one-time donation, indicating it is for the Thank Offering.

Because of the generosity of our congregation, women and children both in the United States and internationally will receive the care, support and sustenance they need to move forward with their lives.

## **A New Look for the Columbarium**

The Columbarium has undergone a transformation and now has a fresh look. The watering system and the plants have been removed and rocks have been placed around the in-ground plaques.

The Columbarium was designed to house urns in seven sections in the ground and a wall. It was planned for the in-ground sections to have lovely, flowering, ground cover surround the plaques. Unfortunately, this did not work out quite as well as was planned. The area is a combination of very sunny areas and some areas completely in the shade. Therefore, the ground cover did well in some areas and did not grow in others. For the past several years, each spring, volunteers had to spend many hours pulling weeds, planting new plants, and fertilizing. Throughout the summer the area had to be watered twice a day and weeded frequently. A gardening expert was called in last spring and he reported that the ground cover that had been planted was not native and would never do well. In addition, the elk and deer enjoyed eating the plants and, in the process, would frequently damage the watering system.

The Columbarium Committee decided, with Session approval, that for the long-term beauty of the Columbarium a change needed to be made. In consultation with a landscaping company, it was decided that rock would be the best answer. There were sufficient funds in the Columbarium account and designated memorial funds to cover the cost and no church budget funds would need to be used. The rock that was installed is the color of the majestic mountains that surround the area. Take a stroll down to the Columbarium and check out the new look.

—Jan Boatman, Columbarium Committee





# *Blue Christmas*

As the Christmas season approaches, we are reminded daily of the joy of the season through music, decorations, and TV commercials. Yet during this season of joy, there are many people who struggle to either maintain a façade of seasonal joy or retreat from the world. With so much turmoil and unknowns in our lives many are stressed. Joy for some is lost, is buried in feelings of sadness, aloneness, and grief.

Our Blue Christmas Service is a time to acknowledge that Christmas isn't always festive and joyful for some. Our worship and reflection are centered around the lighting of the Advent candles with a slightly different focus. This is a time that we gather in worship, and be present with each other and the Holy. It's a time to share our love and support for one another. It's a time to surround ourselves with our sisters and brothers.

Loss comes in many forms. If you are experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, a job, a hope or a dream, or are struggling with all the mayhem that is happening in our lives and the world, or maybe you just have the Christmas doldrums, this service is designed for you. It is a meaningful and beautiful reminder that we are not alone.

**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Wednesday, December 21**  
**5:30 pm**

## **Sea of Awakening**

*Eastertime in Greece – Looking out upon the sea  
mesmerized by the wave in the sea of timeliness*

Deep within – where my breath turns –  
Explodes into life  
Nourishing the particle of my soul  
Synergy rushing outward  
Only to return to deep within.  
Soulfully seeking,  
Questioning, yearning for certainty  
Searching tearfully –  
Turning outward – upward...  
Traveling deep within  
All of my today's...  
Yesterdays & tomorrows.  
In a place known only to God  
Comforting light...  
Warmth – strength  
A seed of being – a taste of acceptance  
A breath of presence.  
Peace!

--Char Gee

*We remember those who passed away this year:*

*Owen (Sam) Ard*

*Jeyneise Dobbins*

*Margaret Gallup*

*Charlotte Gee*

*Jerry Moore*

*Walter Richards*

*Doris (Joan) Shoemaker*

*Jay Smith*

*Albert Velthoen*

*Ginger Wilkinson*



# Study Groups & Classes

## Celebrating Sabbath – PW Bible Study Monday, December 19, 2022 – Twelve Noon Lesson 4

All are welcome to join the Horizons Bible Study that Presbyterian Women are discussing this year. Betty Meyer will be leading us through Lesson 4, titled “Sabbath and Surrender,” which begins on page 39 of our study book. It should be an interesting study in December as the key idea is “a call to surrender our unhealthy striving for more wealth, more stuff and more success. It is a call to recognize when it is time to say, ‘Enough.’” We are now able to have a hybrid Circle meeting, so the meeting is provided both in person and on Zoom. The Zoom information can be found at the end of this article. There are still study books available in the office for \$10 if you would like to join us but don’t have a book. We gather at 11:30 a.m. and the lesson begins at 12 noon and lasts approximately an hour. You are welcome to bring your lunch if you would like to join us. This is the information you need to join us on Zoom:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83477024693>

Meeting ID: 834 7702 4693

Passcode: PCCR

Dial in 1 719 359 4580

## Journeys

Journeys meets on Sunday mornings from 8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. All meetings are held online via Zoom. No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome to be a part of Journeys. You can join by using the Zoom link below.

During the past year, Journeys has used material from the “Living the Questions” series from time to time. We will start December with one of those programs titled, Debunking the Rapture. Then we will spend two Sundays discussing the importance of being grateful and experiencing awe.

### Journeys schedule for December:

December 4	Debunking the Rapture
December 11	Gratitude and Awe
December 18	Gratitude and Awe
December 25	No class

You can use the link below to join the meeting.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG50Wk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTctlUT09>

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

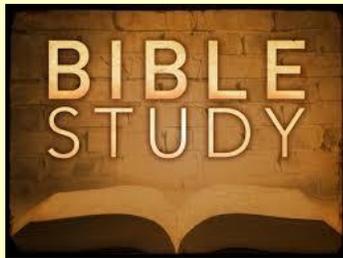
## Signing (not Singing!) Choir

Have you ever wanted to learn a bit of sign language? How about sometimes signing a hymn? There is a place for you!

A new group will begin meeting in January 2023 with the purpose of learning about sign language, learning some sign and eventually providing a signed piece of music during worship.

The initial meeting will be at 4 p.m. Monday January 9, 2023 at the Church. At that meeting we will decide on the best time for regular meetings and take the first steps in sign language. If you are interested, please contact Carol Nussbaumer in person or at 970 586 2437 or [carol@nussbaumers.net](mailto:carol@nussbaumers.net).

## Adult Sunday School



Adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 8 at 8:15 a.m., meeting in the Lounge. This year we will focus on a somewhat more traditional Bible-based study. We would also entertain the idea of shifting time to after-worship if enough want to do that. All are welcome! You are also welcome to suggest a particular study or, even better, offer to lead one or

two classes. Contact Carol Nussbaumer (970-586-2437 or [carol@nussbaumers.net](mailto:carol@nussbaumers.net)) if you have any questions.

## A Letter from Chenoa Stock, PCUSA's Mission Co-Worker Serving in Peru Summer 2022

Dear partners in Christ,

I have been on the journey of Interpretation Assignment (IA) – visiting and sharing about our Peruvian partners and their ministries – both virtually and in-person with some of your PC (USA) congregations these past months. It has been an overwhelming joy and blessing to have had this special time together. Thank you for the hospitality, thoughtfulness, and love showed to my travel companion, Leandro, and me! He had a blast getting to know the country and each of you. We give thanks for your partnership and accompaniment of our family and our partners in Peru. I look forward to being with more of you in the months to come and sharing more about this time in my next newsletter!



## Session Highlights ~ November 2022

- ◇ New Member Class was held on October 30.
- ◇ A New Officer Training will be Friday, December 9 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ◇ Session approved the baptism of Autumn Schweitzer, daughter of Luke and Alicia Schweitzer and granddaughter of David and Katha Schweitzer. The baptism will be Sunday, December 25.
- ◇ The 2023 Operating Budget was presented by the Finance Committee. Session will vote on the budget at the December meeting.
- ◇ The Pastor Nominating Committee presented the Ministry Information Form (MIF) to Session. Session endorsed the document. It will now go to Presbytery for approval.
- ◇ Session approved a request from the Finance Committee to create a Stewardship Team for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign.
- ◇ Session approved the Employee Handbook presented by the Personnel Committee.

## Deacon Highlights ~ November 2022

- ◇ Joys and Concerns: Sent 10 greeting cards.
- ◇ Served a reception for the family of Jeyneise Dobbins on Saturday, November 12, 2022.
- ◇ Sunshine Committee: Provided one meal for a family in November.
- ◇ Made plans to serve the fellowship coffee hour at the church on December 18, 2022.
- ◇ Outreach: Began compiling a list of PCCR members who are residents at Good Samaritan Society and making arrangements to make contact with them.
- ◇ Communion Committee: next Communion will be on December 4.
- ◇ Arranged to meet jointly with the Session in December and welcome the newly elected deacons.

### Financial Information October 2022

	October	Year to Date	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$32,327	\$277,494	\$305,067
Total Expenses	\$30,186	\$318,369	\$354,279
Net Total	\$2,141	-\$40,875	-\$49,212

# December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:30am-Journeys Class</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p> <p>2:00 Chamber Singers Christmas Concert - Oratorio Society Orchestra</p> <p>Rehearsal-FH</p> <p>7:30pm Oratorio Chorus Rehearsal-FH</p>	 <p>10:00am-Pastor Nominating Committee-L</p> <p>2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies*</p>	<p>6</p> <p>2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH</p> <p>6:45pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30am-EPNRC Board*</p> <p>10:00am-Mission Comm-L</p> <p>3:30pm-Girl Scouts-L</p> <p>4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH</p> <p>5:00pm-EVICS Mom's*</p> <p>6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00am-New Officer Training-FH</p> <p>6:00pm-Estes Park Chorale Christmas Concert Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am-Card Making Group-FH</p> <p>2:00pm-Estes Park Chorale Christmas Concert</p> <p>4:00pm Chorale Potluck-FH</p> <p>7:00pm-Estes Park Chorale Christmas Concert</p>
<p>4</p> <p>8:30am-Journeys Class</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p> <p>5:30pm Oratorio Society Orchestra</p> <p>Rehearsal-FH</p> <p>7:30pm Oratorio Chorus Rehearsal-FH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am-Finance Committee-L</p> <p>10:00am-Pastor Nominating Committee-L</p> <p>11:00am Communications Committee - L</p> <p>2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies*</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am-Building and Grounds-L</p> <p>12:30pm-Personnel-L</p> <p>2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>4:30pm-Stephen Ministry-L</p> <p>6:30pm-Session and Deacons Joint Mtg-L</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH</p> <p>7:00pm-Oratorio Dress Rehearsal-S</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am-Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:00pm-Columbarium-L</p> <p>4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH</p> <p>5:00pm-EVICS Mom's*</p> <p>6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm- Oratorio Society Concert-S</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2:00pm-Oratorio Society Concert-S</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30am-Journeys Class</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am-Pastor Nominating Committee-L</p> <p>11:30am-PW Bible Study-L</p> <p>2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies*</p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH</p> <p>5:30pm-Blue Christmas</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH</p> <p>5:00pm-EVICS Mom's*</p> <p>6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p>5:00pm-Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Worship</p> 
<p>8:30am-Journeys Class</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <p>10:00am-Pastor Nominating Committee-L</p> <p>3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies*</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <p>5:00pm-EVICS Mom's*</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>New Year's Eve</b></p> 

**Note: Calendar events subject to change**  
\*Downstairs Room 6



## Grace and Grub Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Church Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy holiday fun and fellowship at this annual potluck brunch. Bring your favorite breakfast dish — egg casseroles, fruit, rolls, pastries, etc. We look forward to celebrating this Christmas season together.

For more details or if you have questions, contact Joy Holcomb, 970-586-9600.

