



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

June 2023 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 11, Number 6





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



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 July Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, June 20. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

June 4 10:00 am, Rev. Chris Davis—Communion

June 11 10:00 am, The Rev. Dr. Jim Jonell

June 18 10:00 am, Rev. Bruce Brackman

June 25 10:00 am, Rev. Chris Davis (last sermon at PCCR)

The Rev. Chris Davis, pastor

Larry Gillum, organist

View through Livestream service on our website:

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

The livestream player is to the right, below the opening pictures, and will automatically start when the service begins.

Sunday Bulletin: Click on “View Bulletin” below the livestream and video recordings box.

We will publish an updated directory this summer

- ⇒ Are you in the current church directory?
- ⇒ Has your phone number changed?
- ⇒ Is your email different?
- ⇒ Any family member changes?
- ⇒ Have you moved? Is your address correct?
- ⇒ Would you like your photo updated?

Let the church office know (970-586-4404 or e-mail to office@pccrusa.org) if and when you have changes to your contact information. Thanks!

Restocking The Market

The Crossroads Ministry food pantry is now The Market at Crossroads. Due to the current economy, the food output at The Market is up 45% from last year. We help in supplying food and sundries. We keep a grocery kart in the narthex for donations and on the third Sunday of each month take the contributions to Crossroads. Please help in this ministry. Crossroads especially needs these items:



- Salad dressings
- Pastas for cold salads
- Real mayonnaise
- Crackers & chips
- Lemonade & iced tea
- Sunscreen for kids
- Reusable cloth shopping bags

June 2023

Message from Pastor Chris Davis . . .



Dear PCCR,

This is my final newsletter article as your Interim Pastor. My last Sunday will be June 25 and my last day in the office is June 30. I will cover pastoral care needs the first half of July until Pastor Christine arrives.

It has been an honor and absolute delight to serve as your Interim Pastor over the past two and a half years. I am grateful to have worked with such an amazing staff, their dedication to the work of this church is inspirational. I was blessed to serve alongside a wonderful bunch of elders and deacons. These two groups have consistently led our congregation by example and have shown all of us the power of living the gospel in our daily lives. It's not often pastors get to work with congregations that are healthy, self-sustaining, and Spirit filled. Thank you for allowing me to journey alongside you, I have received so much grace, hospitality, and wisdom- it has been a gift to serve as your Interim Pastor.

As we look to the future, and as my role officially changes in the next month, I will not be attending PCCR worship or fellowship activities for one year. This is to allow plenty of space for you and Pastor Christine to build a pastoral relationship. I am looking forward to attending church with Rita and our kids in Boulder County. It's been a long time since I've sat in a pew with my family instead of standing alone in a pulpit! As you know, I will be working in town with The Thompson Group, serving as a real estate advisor. I am also a member of the Thursday Rotary Club, and I am a board member for Crossroads Ministry. So, when you see me around town, please say hello!

I look forward to watching where God is leading this congregation. Thank you again for all you've done for me and my family. I thank God for you, and I wish you love, peace, and joy as you continue the rich tradition of Presbyterian ministry in Estes Park.

In Christ's Faithful Service,
Pastor Chris

***PCCR welcomes
Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey
as the church's new pastor***



Dear friends at PCCR,

Thank you for such a beautiful weekend -
reception + worship! It was a joy for
both me and my family to get to know
everyone. I now have my work cut out for
me in memorizing names & matching
partners.

I just want to hold up the amazing
ministry that PCCR is doing and I
very much look forward to ways that
we will continue to serve God in
the future. I can't compliment
enough the work of your clinicians, Chris
& friend of the congregation, Bruce who
have not only worked with you but have
welcomed me with open arms.

We have a few weeks for me to say



My goodbyes to my Omaha congregation &
got started there. I will keep you
all in my prayers, & I do encourage
you to reach out to me! Our tentative
reunion date is July 1.

Love & peace
Christina

MADE WITH PAPER FROM
WELL-MANAGED FORESTS



Pilgrimage News



On April 21st a group of church-goers from around the state, gathered at Highlands Camp to celebrate 24 years of a ministry called Colorado Presbyterian Cursillo/Pilgrimage. There was a lot to celebrate!

In the 1990's members of Colorado congregations travelled to Oklahoma to attend a retreat weekend called Presbyterian Cursillo. By 1999, there were enough Coloradans who had attended to bring the program back to Colorado. First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs became the sponsoring church for **Colorado Presbyterian Cursillo**. Our first retreat weekend was held in September, 1999 at LaForet United Church of Christ camp in Black Forest, and had 40 staff members, mostly from Oklahoma, and 39 participants from two Colorado Presbyterian churches.

Weekend #2 had 42 staff and 40 participants from three Colorado Presbyterian churches and CPC #3 also had 40 participants from 5 Colorado Presbyterian Churches. It looked like this thing was going to go! So the leadership team adopted bylaws and structure from Oklahoma Cursillo and formed a council working within the sponsoring church to ensure that this ministry was done in Presbyterian order.

The first weekends were in the historic Ponderosa Lodge at La Foret with tables crammed wall to wall. Staff members sat on the steps or against the walls. Accommodations were bunks in rustic cabins with two bathrooms for 20 people. Ah, the bonding that went on there! LaForet had a beautiful mission-style chapel, which served as backdrop to many meaningful and memorable worship services. Cursillo made people glow with God's love.

By 2009, we had served 600 people from 20 Presbyterian Churches. At this point, Colorado Presbyterian Cursillo petitioned the national council to become **Colorado Presbyterian Pilgrimage** and our first Pilgrimage weekend (the 20th Colorado weekend) was held in October, 2009. As Pilgrimage, some Spanish words were dropped and participants who attended non-Presbyterian churches were allowed to attend.

In 2012, First Pres of Colorado Springs stopped being the sponsoring church, and First Pres of Leadville, CO took over. A consortium of churches including PCCR continued to put on weekends. (Our role was to store the tubs and tubs of supplies.). The weekend retreats have been held at Highlands Camp or Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby since 2014, except of course for two pandemic years when no retreats were held. The consortium was able to hold seven more weekends, serving 71 participants from 9 new participating churches and adding 18 new staff members who got the opportunity to serve.

As we made the difficult decision to "retire" the ministry (most of the worker bees are well beyond retirement age), we also decided to celebrate our accomplishments with one last party; to savor our memories and keep in touch with the friends we have made; to pass along our collection of supplies with our prayers and best wishes. (Some are going to Virginia Pilgrimage which lost all of it's supplies in a tragedy, some are going to a start-up church, some to a nonprofit, some to a preschool).

There are several areas of the country still holding Cursillo/Pilgrimage weekends and anyone who wants to attend a weekend may find one on the website: www.pilgrimagecursillo.org

The closest one to us is Great Plains Pilgrimage in Omaha. There is also a similar program right here in Colorado called **Koinonia** (nckoinonia.org). Many of us in Colorado will continue to be active, so without sadness we say farewell to **Colorado Presbyterian Pilgrimage**. Go with God.

Of note ...

Many Thanks to Pete Vanderveen

We want to heartily thank Pete Vanderveen who has single handedly swept and picked up the gravel on all of our parking lots and driveways. This was a tremendous amount of work and saves the church lots of money and work time on the upcoming Spring Workday.



The Joyful Bells conclude the season on Sunday, April 30th, with a presentation of *The Solid Rock*. The bell choirs will take a summer break and will return in the fall.

Pastor Bruce Brackman delivers the message *The Shepherd and the Gate* on Sunday, April 30th.



Isaac Johnson accompanies the worship service on Pentecost Sunday.

Groups and Events

Pot Luck Lunch for Pastor Chris

PCCR has been blessed to have Chris Davis with us for this interim time without a permanent pastor. He has provided compassionate care and thought provoking sermons to our congregation. To thank him and say farewell we will have a pot luck lunch right after church on Sunday, June 25 which will be his last Sunday in the pulpit. So please bring a dish to share and plan to stay for lunch and a time of fellowship.

Spring Workday—June 17th

We will be holding our Spring Workday on Saturday morning – June 17th. We will clean up pine needles and pinecones plus some tree trimming. This is a big project but lots of hands (and feet) will make it go easier. A major purpose of this is to help reduce the fire danger of this debris around the church grounds as well as just making it all look much better. We expect to work from 8:30 until close to noon – depending on how it goes. If you have a pickup or trailer for carrying off the debris, please bring it. We also need rakes and wheelbarrows and a few trimming tools. The church will also have tools available. There will be donuts to keep up your strength – or just make you feel better. Come and join your friends and help us out! Thanks – Jim Nussbaumer

Thank You from Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women extend a heartfelt thanks to our congregation for their generous support of the PW Birthday Offering collected this spring. As of mid-May, a total of \$1,212.00 was received to help improve the lives of women and children in the United States and internationally. This year's projects will support a group home for young mothers in Florida, to break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration and early motherhood. The funds will also help build a kindergarten building in Ethiopia, which serves subsistence farmers, migrant workers and displaced groups of people in Ethiopia. Thank you for providing help and hope for those in need.

Summer Sign Language Samplers

Have you ever wondered what “sign language” is? How do you know what to do with your hands? Sign is a language just like English or German only easier!

Consider this an open invitation to stop by sign choir class on Mondays at 4 pm in the church library. You are welcome to watch for a bit or join in if you want. We are learning anthems and hymns to present during worship, but no one needs to do that if they don't wish to. We finish at 5:00. Come take a look!

Seeds for Embangweni School for the Deaf

Help students at the Embangweni School for the Deaf in Malawi learn how to grow a vegetable garden. Carol Nussbaumer has started a student garden there and needs packets of seeds for carrots, tomatoes, chard, cabbage, squash, beans, peas, watermelon and cantaloupe. See the Mission & Outreach bulletin board in the narthex for more information.

Journeys

Journeys meets Sunday mornings starting at 8:15 a.m. for casual conversation, with the program starting at 8:30. The discussions conclude by 9:45 a.m. You have two options for participating in Journeys. You can attend the gathering in-person in the Church Library or connect via Zoom using the link below.

Journeys will start the month looking into the insights of Rabbi Harold Kushner. Rabbi Kushner wrote many books and lectured frequently. He is best known for his book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People". Rabbi Kushner passed away in April 2023. The program will be led by Dona Cooper.

Jim Daugherty will lead a discussion of one of Jesus' parables: The Laborers in the Vineyard.

Journeys will have a social gathering on June 11 starting at 12:30 p.m. in the church social hall. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

The final program will be about: Living with Intention. It will be led by Mary Mesropian & Scott Robbins.

The Journeys schedule for May is:

June 4	Insights of Rabbi Kushner
June 11	Social at the Church
June 18	The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard
June 25	Living with Intention

To attend using Zoom, you can use the link below to join the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1ICVmtENnUxTCtUT09>

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

Hot Dog—Our Picnic Is Coming Soon!

Rain or shine, everyone is welcome to our Church Family Picnic on Sunday, July 9 from 11 AM- 2 PM at the Lake Estes Marina Covered Shelter off Hwy 34. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, forks and knives, water, and paper supplies will be provided. If you wish anything else to drink please bring your own. If your last name begins with A-M please bring a side or salad to feed 8-10 people. Those who have a last name beginning with N-Z please bring a dessert. Please bring your own serving utensil. Dress casually for church and bring your food so you can go directly to the picnic from church. There's no charge, but donations will be accepted. Don't miss this fun afternoon of food and fellowship July 9 after church.

Parking Lot Resurfacing

The church parking lot and driveway will be resurfaced to help preserve our investment in the paving. This will include crack sealing, sealcoating and restriping. To do this, portions of the parking lot will need to be closed for a few days at a time. We will only close half of the area at a time so the church will always be accessible.

It will all be done during the work week, so that everything will be open on Sundays. The schedule is:

Main west parking lot and west entrance will be closed: Tuesday, June 27th; Wednesday, June 28th and Thursday, June 29th. The east driveway and south and south-east parking lots will still be open.

South and south-east parking lots and drive near front door will be closed: Friday, June 30th and Saturday July 1st. The west driveway and main west parking lot plus the east driveway as far as the north parking lot (used by EPNRC) will still be open. The east driveway will not be closed at any time

Session Highlights— May 15, 2023

Noted that Deacons have served two receptions and one luncheon for memorial services so far in May.

Heard from the Presbytery: the Presbytery Executive's contract has been renewed for a year; Highlands Camp will have a limited camping schedule this summer; and a discussion was held at the last Presbytery meeting about how individual churches can make their voices heard at Presbytery.

Approved the agreement with the Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center, contingent upon Pastor Chris negotiating the final numbers with them.

Accepted, with great regret and much appreciation, the resignation letter from Pastor Chris, effective as of July 14, 2023.

Approved the Pentecost Offering for May 28.

Heard from Finance Committee that we are doing well financially this year.

Noted that the Lifelong Learning Center has closed and that the Mission and Outreach Committee is searching for a similar non-profit agency that PCCR might support.

Deacon Highlights— May 10, 2023

Deacons served a Memorial reception for Char Gee on April 30

Deacons served a Memorial for Margaret Gallup on May 2

Mimi Hardendorf provided bread and juice for the communion table on May 7

Deacons will serve a luncheon reception for Miriam Graetzer's Memorial on May 13.

Deacons assisted the personnel committee and the hospitality committee to serve a reception after church on May 16 for Meredith Ishida, to celebrate her expected daughter. We are grateful the baby was born healthy last week.









Deacons will serve fellowship hour on May 28

Financial Information for April, 2023

	December	Year to Date	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$41,606	\$136,804	\$120,543
Total Expenses	\$28,892	\$121,891	\$154,443
Net Total	\$12,714	\$14,913	-\$33,900

June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship, Communion 	5 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	6 9:00am-Finance Committee 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	7 	8 10:00am-Staff Meeting 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	9 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room 10:00am-Mission Comm-L 	10 9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH 
11 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Journeys Class Gathering-FH	12 9:00am-Finance Committee 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	13 10:00am-Building and Grounds-L 1:00pm-Personnel-L 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers-L 7:00pm-Deacons-L	14 	15 3:00pm-Columbarium-L 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	16 8:30am-Spring Workday-grounds	17
18 Father's Day 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship	19 9:00am-Membership and Hospitality-FH 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:30pm-Session-L	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 10:00am-Staff Meeting 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	23 9:30am-Merry Marthas-FH	24 
25 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Pot luck lunch for Pastor Chris	26 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	27 All day-parking lot resurfacing 	28 All day-parking lot resurfacing	29 All day-parking lot resurfacing 10:00am-Staff Meeting 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	30 All day-parking lot resurfacing 	

Note: Calendar events subject to change
*Downstairs Room 6

Dear PCCR Family,

I wanted to take time to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee, Susan, Sue, Jim, Stan, Randy and Kent, for their hard work, their commitment to the process and their sincere love of our church and hope for our future together. I truly believe that God had a plan for us and we simply followed the necessary steps to get us to extend the call to Reverend Dr. Christine Dempsey as our new Pastor. What a journey it was.

Thanks go to all of our members who prayed for us, and respected the process by allowing us to work together. I also want to thank Pastor Chris for his initial guidance as we began. We felt his support throughout the process. In addition, we were very appreciative of Meredith for making scheduling arrangements and to Carolyn for all her financial wisdom and help in gathering data to share with candidates, and getting us reimbursed when needed, while keeping confidentiality during the process.

Pastor Christine and her family are preparing to come, and plan to be moved here to their new home on July 7th. She will officially begin on July 15th.



In gratitude,
Sue
Sue Yowell
Chair of PNC

