



Volume 11, Number 7



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

July 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.



Thank you, Pastor Chris



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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey (beginning July 15)

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

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!

Printed copies of the newsletter are available in the narthex.

The August Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, July 18. Please send your pictures and stories to: Peter Plaut and office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



© Contents copyright by the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies 2015-2023 and may not be used for any commercial purpose without written permission from PCCR.

Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

July 2 10:00 am, Jason Morgan
July 9 10:00 am, Rev. Bruce Brackman—Communion
July 16 10:00 am, Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey
July 23 10:00 am, Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey
July 30 10:00 am, Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

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: Available on the website: 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 cart 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:



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

A Letter from our New Pastor

Dear PCCR Friends,

Hello Estes Park! I am so excited to get to work here in the middle of July. My first Sunday will be July 16th and I hope that you all will come on that day. The scripture passages for the last three Sundays in July are about Jesus's parables regarding how the church will grow. I think in today's world, we are so worried about all the research of the declining numbers in the church that we forget about God's providence. I like how this is stated in the Hymn of Promise "In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree." I was once at a conference with the famous theologian Will Willimon who in his talk reminded us that if we truly nurture the kingdom of God, it will grow. So, we are going to jump into these parables thinking about the promises of God and jumping on board with God's call on our lives as disciples.



In the next few weeks, we have a lot of work to do before we start planting seeds. We need to prepare our fields. First, I want you to celebrate the remarkable work of Rev. Chris Davis. He has been a blessing to this congregation, giving you guidance and presence during the COVID-19 pandemic, and he has carefully brought you out of that time into the present. As he has prepared you for a new pastor, he has prepared me to step in with confidence and encouragement as we open a new chapter. I also thank the PNC and their prayerful work as they have interviewed and listened to so many pastors. This is heart-wrenching work for all involved, but it is an important step in discernment. I will often discuss with you some of the ideas and visions that they shared with me so that we can fulfill our call here at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies.

Then we need to prepare for this time of change. There is a shift from when Chris will be acting as your pastor to when I will be in that role. Please do not hesitate to contact me when that transition takes place. Here are some of the things that you can do. First, if you are into social media, please add me on Facebook. I am listed as Christy Hancock Dempsey on there. I am also on Instagram and Discord (your grandchildren will think I'm cool). If you use those other platforms, let me know. Also, feel free to add me to your contact list with my cell phone. I will make sure that the office has it and knows that you are all welcome to put me in your contact list. It is important to me that you can reach me easily by phone or text.

In terms of planting our fields, we need to plan and that means being ready for Sunday morning! Plan on attending worship and having coffee afterwards! Also, invite your friends and acquaintances to meet the new pastor at the church. It is very important to me that people in Estes Valley know that they can reach out to me even if they are not members of this congregation. Wear your name tags and remind me of your names until I get them right. Mike and I will probably have a competition to see who learns them the fastest, and he will probably win. On the thirtieth, the church is planning a special get-to-know-you reception after service. Be there!

Finally, please stop by the church and say hello in the first three weeks. I will be planning some small group events and a chance to join me for coffee in August and September, but in July, I just hope to see your smiling faces. Stop by the office. It will be a great chance to see my fine collection of mission trip T-shirts!

Grace and peace,

Christine

Our church contributes to the Presbyterian Church mission program. We have designated our donations to honor the work of two mission co-workers. One is Cheryl Barnes, who serves in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Here is a recent letter from her.



Dear friends,

We belong to each other. Sometimes it is easy to forget this fact because there are constant reminders of what divides us. The truth of the matter is we are intricately connected in every way imaginable. From the beginning of time, we all originated from one place; we all share one common humanity; and within each one of us, there is a part of the other. Instead of setting physical and mental walls, we should be intentional about designing a world that celebrates our commonalities as well as our individuality. The church is called to lead the way in this effort and if we do this well, we will transform our society.

I believe that either individually or collectively, we all have a significant part to play in furthering the great ends of the church. There is a specific call that God gives to a few individuals "to go," to a foreign place. This is the command that God gave to Abraham in Genesis chapter 12, verse 4. This call is not an easy one to answer. To obey this command requires a steady faith, overcoming obstacles, and having an unwavering trust that every personal and public need will be met. To obey this call requires the faith to believe that God will open the hearts of those who belong to The Holy, Apostolic, Catholic Church, to collectively join you by offering provisions to support international mission. Jonathan Byrd, the five-time PGA Tour winner, is quoted as saying, "The one who loves walking will walk further than the one who loves the destination. When you fall in love with the journey, everything else takes care of itself."

I have fallen in love with the journey. I have acquired a new mindset, new relationships, a new language and a new worldview. In the process of loving the journey, I have seen the hand of God move in unimaginable ways.

What you give is what you get to keep. We never have lack when we serve the God of abundance. I have experienced and received generous gifts of lodging, food and fellowship from individuals and congregations. From the open hearts of congregations and individuals in the U.S. has come provision for children, schools, infrastructure and projects for communities in Malawi. Touching the lives of people who are across the globe allows us to wholly celebrate the humanity and holiness of others.

I have planted a garden on foreign soil and danced with children in local schools. I have held newborn babies and sat with elders in villages. I have inhaled the dust from the roads and the smell of sweet grilled corn. These are some of the reasons that I have fallen in love with the journey.

June 19 will be my last day as Education Facilitator for the five synods under the CCAP umbrella. I am not closing the chapter of this amazing call; I am simply turning the page to begin the next chapter of my work in Africa. I have accepted the position as Africa area coordinator, which is an extension of my call to serve our partners in Africa. God is giving me more places to walk and enlarging my territory. If you have enjoyed reading about my journey, I invite you to read the newsletters of my colleagues Regional Liaison to East Central Africa, Rev. Paula Cooper, and Educational Consultant for the Democratic Republic of Congo, José Lamont Jones.

I am grateful for the support of congregations, presbyteries, mission networks and individuals who have generously supported this very important work and who walked alongside me. I ask that you continue to provide financial support for the mission co-workers who serve our partners in African countries.

Zikomo (Thank you),

Cheryl

Thanks to ...



... all who helped with the church cleanup on a cloudy June 17th. The crew raked up and hauled away two truck loads and a trailer full of pine needles, cones and brush.



... the Chancel and Sign Choirs for their support of the worship service on June 18th.

... the Rev. Dr. Jim Jonell for the message on June 11th.



Groups and Events

Hot Dog—Our Church Picnic Is Sunday, July 9th

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 for 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.

Journeys

Journeys is on summer break until September 17.

Journeys is an ecumenical group of faith travelers focused on religious education and exploring the questions that arise as one reflects on their faith.

Below is a sample of some faith statements that Journeys might explore during one of its Sunday morning gatherings.

1. Believe that following the way and teachings of Jesus can lead to experiencing sacredness, wholeness, and unity of all life, even as we recognize that the Spirit moves in beneficial ways in many faith traditions.
 2. Seek community that is inclusive of all people, honoring differences in theological perspective, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, class, or ability.
 3. Strive for peace and justice among all people, knowing that behaving with compassion and selfless love towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe.
 4. Embrace the insights of contemporary science and strive to protect the Earth and ensure its integrity and sustainability.
 5. Commit to a path of life-long learning, believing there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.
- From progressivechristianity.org

SAVE THE DATE!!

The popular miniature golf tournament to benefit our denomination's mission co-workers, supported by PCCR, is coming up soon! **Save the date: Sunday, September 10** (the Sunday concluding the Scottish-Irish Festival), **starting at 5:00 p.m.** The mini-golf tourney will be held at the Cascade Creek course (part of Ride-A-Kart), located at the corner of Mall Road and U.S. 34. More details and sign-ups to come soon!

John Hale

We learned recently that a member of our church and a seasonal regular at PCCR, John Hale, passed away on May 8th in Phoenix, Arizona. John was born on July 8, 1935. He and his wife, Maribel, built a home in Estes, and both regularly attended church here during the summers.



July 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship	3 9:00am-Worship&Music-L 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	4 Independence Day – Church Office Closed	5 	6 10:00am-Staff Meeting 2:00pm-Mission and Outreach-L 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	7 	8 9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH
9 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship, Communion 11:00am-All-Church Picnic	10 9:00am-Finance Committee 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:00pm-ESL Classes*	11 10:00am-Bldg and Grounds-L 1:00pm-Personnel-L 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers-L 7:00pm-Deacons-L	12 	13 10:00am-Staff Meeting 1:00pm-Foundation 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	14 	15
16 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship	17 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:30pm-Session-L	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:00pm-Columbarium-L 6:6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	21	22
23 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship	24 9:00am-Mem and Hosp-L 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	25 	26 	27 10:00am-Staff Meeting 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Room	28 9:30am-Merry Matthias -FH	29
30 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship 11:00am Ice Cream Social	31 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L					

Note: Calendar events subject to change. The newsletter version of the calendar shows PCCR events only. The Internet calendar on the church's website shows all events scheduled at the church, including community activities. *Downstairs Room 6



Session Highlights— June 19, 2023

Approved a baptism service for Stan and Kathy Osborne’s grandchildren.

Approved having Pastor Chris perform a wedding service in our church for two non-members.

Noted that resurfacing the parking lot will begin soon. Access to the church will always be available by at least one entrance.

Approved selling space in the Columbarium to Edward and Marilyn Beall.

Received a very favorable report from Finance committee. We have received a clean financial review from Taylor Roth and Company.

Scheduled a potluck luncheon for June 25, following Pastor Chris’ last worship service with us.

Scheduled an ice cream social for July 30 following worship service to welcome our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey.

Noted that the pie social has been moved to August 27, 2023.

Scheduled a Golf Tourney for September 10, 2023 to raise money for our mission coworkers.

Reviewed the exit interview that Personnel Committee held with Pastor Chris.

Session members agreed that Pastor Chris had lead us out of the Covid 19 traumatic days and helped to unify our congregation. His pastoral care has been outstanding, and everyone felt he would be missed.

Deacon Highlights— June 13, 2023

The Deacons met on June 13th, with 7 members and Pastor Chris in attendance. Robert Sherrod gave the devotional on humility.

Expenses this year have been \$246.04 from a budget of \$1,000. There is balance of \$7,519.71 in the restricted account. There was a discussion of using some of this money for new tablecloths.

No cards were needed or sent this month and no meals were needed this month. There were also no memorial receptions.

Deacons will serve coffee and treats for fellowship on July 30th. Additional fellowship dates for this year are September 17th and December 10th. The Deacons assisted with the July 25th potluck lunch for Pastor Chris.

Financial Information as of end of May, 2023

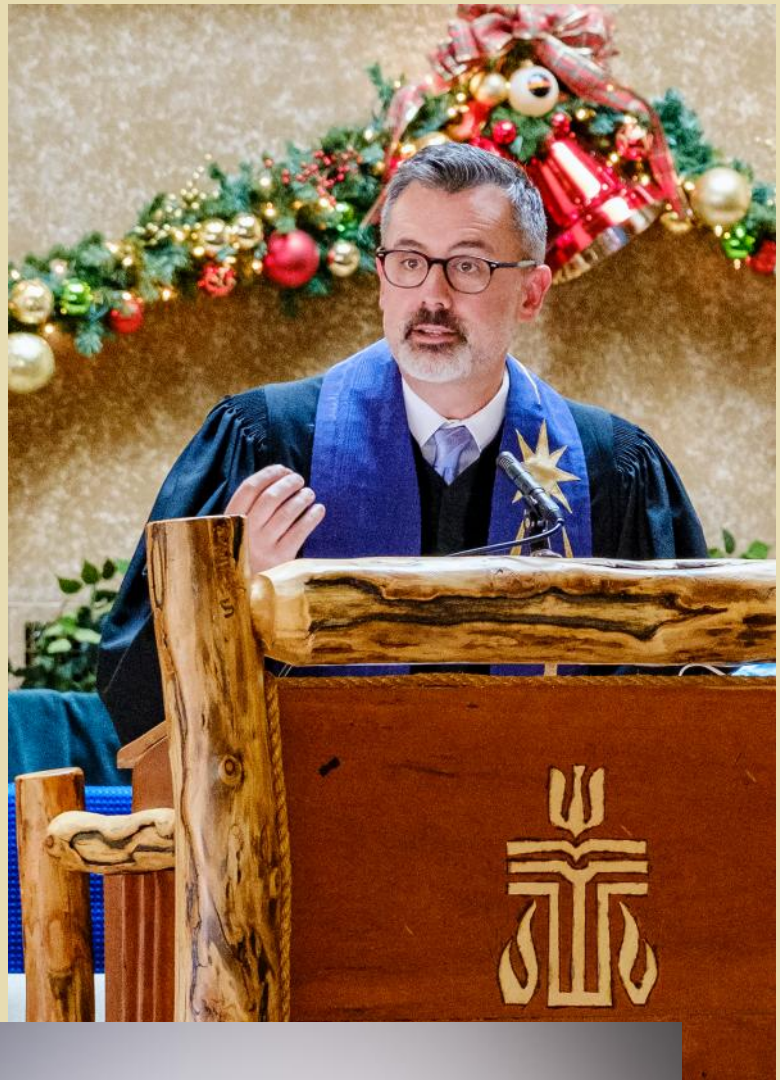
	Month of May	Year to Date	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$24,086	\$160,891	\$150,679
Total Expenses	\$24,676	\$146,567	\$193,054
Net Total	-\$590	\$14,324	-\$42,375



Sunday, June 25th

***With heartfelt thanks,
PCCR wishes
Pastor Chris Davis
Many happy returns and
Godspeed***





***And special thanks for
all the inspiration
and memories***

How do you say “Thank You” and “Goodbye” at the same time, to someone that you really wish wasn’t leaving? Many things come to mind for which we want to say thank you, Chris. During your two-plus years with us as our interim pastor, you touched each of us in varying ways, causing us to reflect on our faith journeys and from which we have learned and grown in that faith.

You reminded us every Sunday that Jesus loves us each and every one, no matter who we are or where we came from. So we say thanks to you, Chris.....

Gracias (Spanish) for bringing us sermons that have been a breath of fresh air!

Merci (French) for being authentic and having the energy to reach out to us.

Tack (Swedish) for sharing the depth of your theological knowledge.

Gomawo (Korean) for motivating us to be better people and to lead a Christian life.

Grazie (Italian) for leading us through the worst days of Covid and helping us remain unified in spite of the divisiveness that gripped much of the country.

Dyakuyu (Ukrainian) for providing outstanding pastoral care to so many of us when we faced illness, death, or other difficult times.

Danke (German) for being involved in our community through avenues such as Rotary and Crossroads, and inspiring us to do the same.

Ye’wo (Chitumbuka, spoken in Malawi) for giving credit to our excellent staff members and church leaders and guiding them to successes.

Now we must say goodbye, but do so knowing that no matter our differences, no matter the language or the skin color, we heard your message and know that Jesus loves us.

Adios (Spanish)

Adieu (French)

Ado (Swedish)

Annyeong (Korean)

Arrivederci (Italian)

Do pobachennya (Ukrainian)

Auf Wiedersehen (German)

Paweme (Chitumbuka, spoken in Malawi)

In plain English, wherever the next chapters of your life lead you, Chris, may you go with God.

With Grateful Thanks and Love,

The Members of Presbyterian
Community Church of the Rockies

