



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

## August 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 8



*Smiles at the Church Picnic — More on page 11*



## 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](http://pccrusa.org)

### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey  
[pastor@pccrusa.org](mailto:pastor@pccrusa.org)

**Handbell Director:** Patti Dolezal,  
[music@pccrusa.org](mailto:music@pccrusa.org)

**Choir Director:** Rich Dixon

**Organist:** Larry Gillum

**Financial Manager:** Carolyn Hull  
[finance@pccrusa.org](mailto:finance@pccrusa.org)

**Office Administrator:** Meredith Ishida  
[office@pccrusa.org](mailto: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 September Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, August 15. Send pictures and stories to [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org). Thanks!**



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## Worship Schedule

### Worship in the Sanctuary:

**August 6 10:00 am, Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey (communion)**

**August 13 10:00 am, Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey**

**August 20 10:00 am, Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey  
1:00 pm, Blessing of the Animals (outdoor chapel)**

**August 27 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](mailto: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 New Beginning for an Old Soul*

Have you ever known a young person who has an “old soul?” I have always fallen into that category. As a kid, I used to spend hours at Grandma and Grandpa’s house poring over the pictures in the family albums and asking Grandma questions about those who came before me. I learned that Grandma and her sisters made crazy quilts for the church auction, Aunt Verna was an actress with a scandalous relationship, Uncle Pete owned a veterinary clinic for farm animals, and Great Great Grandpa Syver constructed the steeple on the new church. I loved to sit and listen to those stories, relive them and think about how these people from so long ago shaped my life-- from their perseverance through the Nebraska blizzard 1888 and the dustbowl of 1935 to their stories of now being “freemen” and the celebration in a successful harvest.

Churches too have this colorful history. Those who came before us created a dream: this construction of this beautiful building to celebrate the nature around us, the adoption of the word “community” to make it clear that we serve the people outside our doors, the meditation trail which was designed to invite the Holy Spirit into our spiritual journey, and the dedication to music and art that tell our story of how we celebrate God’s gifts. While our church has this history, all of you who make up this current church have stories too. Your stories now intersect with this church and make us the unique body that we are.

During the past few years, you have had a chance to process who we are and what we cherish about this family. Having a new pastor is somewhat like adding a member to the family. Our question is how we should honor our identity, our history, and our mission. I am hoping that you are also asking how will our new pastor help us grow, how will she both represent our heritage and yet lead us into the future, and how will she care for us as our new family member. There are several ways that we get to begin this process together. First, I need to get to know you and your stories. To do this, we will start having small “family” gatherings beginning this month. Members of the church have offered their homes to have small groups of 10-12 people to share in stories and laughter, hopes, and dreams. This is open to our membership and also those who are considering membership. Second, you need to get to know me. One of the best ways to get to know me is to attend worship and listen for the theology of hope that shapes my call. Also, ask questions! I am happy to talk with all of you about myself and my call to PCCR. Don’t hesitate to come in or make an appointment to see me. My door is open!

Finally, I want to invite you into our first sermon series on family. We often forget about the church as family and the importance of our church family for our lives. In our world of rugged individualism, we have forgotten about our need for connection to our broader family, and it is something we crave. As we look at how the family functions in the church, we can learn that our tradition is steeped in the language of family that can give insight into the dynamics of our church and a provide a means to celebrate who we are in Christ.

I look forward to this life with you!

Grace and peace

Christine <3



## *It Really Does Take a Village*

As a poet, I generally balk at clichés and overused phrases. And yet, during the past few months, I have been forced to acknowledge the truth in that old proverb, that “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Last October, I received a voicemail with a job offer from PCCR. I regretfully returned Pastor Chris’ call with my head hung down, knowing that my recently confirmed pregnancy and need for time off this summer would likely be a dealbreaker. To my surprise and delight, the Personnel Committee responded that I was still wanted for the position of Office Administrator.

As it turns out, I – and now my infant daughter River – were far more than wanted. We were embraced, celebrated, and even, I would say, loved, by the staff, the congregation, and the wider community of PCCR. And for this we are most grateful:

You supported us during my pregnancy, your questions and excitement mirroring my own anticipation.

You celebrated us with a lovely and unexpected baby shower, wrapping us in your warmth.

You nurtured us with your generous gifts, quite literally feeding Sparkle and myself, and thereby feeding River.

Many of you have volunteered to cover the office throughout my absence; in this way, you have contributed – and continue to contribute - the resource of time. Time to heal, time to bond with my new child, time to learn how to be a mother to two rather than one.

And, most of all, you have raised us up through your thoughts, wishes and prayers. For you see, River’s birth was one which could have gone quite wrong. During my previous birth, I nearly died from blood loss due to a condition that tends to repeat itself. River herself, we discovered during the pregnancy, had a 50% chance of inheriting a blood type incompatible with mine, putting her at risk for medical problems. Both our lives could very well have been lost. To my great joy, however, her birth occurred without incident, and she entered the world perfectly healthy. She is now a thriving and beautiful three-month-old.

Meredith



## *Journeys*

As its name implies, Journeys is a group of faith-traveling partners who are at various places along the *Way* in their quest for spiritual formation and spiritual maturity. PCCR serves as a host for this ecumenical group that encourages people from all faith traditions and spiritual backgrounds to participate.

Journeys' participants understand that spiritual growth is: "a process, not a product; a journey, not a destination; intentional, transformational and relational; and a life-long quest."

Journeys starts with a foundational belief that the Way and teachings of Jesus can lead to experiencing **sacredness**, wholeness, and a connection to the divine. At the same time, Journeys participants delve into other faith traditions and look at how they experience the divine. Understanding different faith traditions enriches and expands the experience of all participants. Journeys also looks at the findings of modern science, asking how its findings inform their spiritual walk.

Journeys provides two forums focused on deepening one's spirituality.

- Journeys participants gather each Sunday morning from 8:30-9:45 a.m. using a hybrid meeting format. One can attend in-person at the PCCR library or remotely via the Zoom platform. These gatherings include a formal presentation by either a Journeys member or an outside individual who has in-depth knowledge on a particular topic. The presentations are followed by a discussion period. Journeys strives to foster intellectual hospitality, encouraging diverse ideas to be expressed and shared. These Sunday morning gatherings will resume on September 17 after a summer break.
- A once a month in-person meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the PCCR library. Its focus will be on soulful conversations. These gatherings consist of casual conversations and spontaneous interactions that enhance one's individual spiritual practices and spiritual growth.

A weekly email is sent out with details of the upcoming program. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the email list for Journeys.



# ***Groups and Events***

## ***Save the Date - Blessing of the Animals Service, Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM***

PCCR will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals service at the church's outdoor chapel on Sunday afternoon, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM. This is a community-wide offering and bears witness to our dependence on other creatures and our stewardship responsibility for their care and recognizes the sacredness of all creation. The service will consist of prayer, hymns, and of course the blessing of our pets. All are welcome to attend the service. Bring your friends. You don't need to be Presbyterian, a member of PCCR, or even have a pet. We will gather to thank God for all God's creatures and the special place they have in our lives.

All pet animals – dogs, cats, horses, llamas, birds, fish and others – are welcome to receive individual blessing. If your pet would not be comfortable, bring a picture or other representation, such as a toy animal.

## ***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!

## ***Journeys Resumes in September***

The Sunday morning gatherings of Journeys will resume on September 17, after a summer break.

Journeys has started a new program. A once a month in-person gathering on the second Thursday of the month. Its focus will be on soulful conversations. These gatherings will consist of casual conversations and spontaneous interactions that enhance one's individual spiritual practices and spiritual growth. The next gathering will be August 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

## ***Thank You PCCR !***

Your response to the 2023 "Christmas in July" giving opportunity was truly overwhelming! Your extra mile giving, paired with funds from the Mission & Outreach Committee, to the Malawi Blanket Project resulted in complete funding for 200 blankets plus transportation costs for distribution. Not only that, but there is enough left to fund Mr. Kayira's annual Christmas Dinner for the extreme poor in the area of Chitipa, Malawi, with some left to start off the 2024 Blanket Project. Amazing! This has never before happened and the Committee extends to each of you a giant thank you! When we receive pictures from this year's distribution we will share them with you --- until then we say "Tawonga chomeni! Uchindami kwa Chiuta!" (Thank you very much! To God is the glory").



## ***PCCR House Gatherings***

Hello everybody! Please sign up for our PCCR small group house gatherings! We will have several gatherings in the month of August (and early September) to get to know Christine, share our love for this congregation and share our dreams. Look out for the sign up on Sunday morning!



## ***Scam and Phishing Alert !***

Several church members have recently received emails from a fraudulent source. The emails have come from an email address of [pastord@pccusa](mailto:pastord@pccusa). This is not Pastor Christine's email. Please be very careful with emails that appear to be from PCCR. Do not open any emails from [pastord@pccusa](mailto:pastord@pccusa). Do not click on any links in emails unless you verify that they are legitimate. Feel free to call the office or email [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org) if you find emails that appear to be from unidentified or invalid sources.

In addition to the fraudulent emails from [pastord@pccusa](mailto:pastord@pccusa), there have been some emails received from [revchristine.pccrusa@gmail.com](mailto:revchristine.pccrusa@gmail.com). This is a "phishing" email in which the sender asks for you to buy something or divulge personal information. These emails are not from Pastor Christine or PCCR. Do not "purchase gift cards for elders and staff" or give out any personal information. More information as well as how to report suspicious emails can be found on the internet.

As Pastor Christine notes, "There is an email scam coming in my name. Delete it. Do not respond to it! Do not click on anything! I will never send you a link that you are not expecting. Please know, that every email you get from me will be signed Grace and peace, Christine with a <3 or an emoji heart. If it is in series of emails it will be just Christine with a <3 or emoji heart."

Some important tips:

Be wary of false urgency expressed in the suspicious e-mail. Take time to check it out. Don't rely on the apparent legitimacy created by seeing an e-mail from someone you know and who wants emergency help in some form. The e-mail address may look like the address of a known company or friend, but check carefully for spelling and extra letters or symbols. The recent attempted scam is an example – a "d" added to "pastor" and an incomplete "pccrusa" after the @ symbol. Separately e-mail the church if the e-mail seems to have originated there. Even if the sender's address looks correct, beware that crooks can use real e-mail addresses in their schemes.

Do not open an attachment unless you are sure that the e-mail is legitimate, and even then take a step back and consider your options to verify the message. Do not click on a link contained in the e-mail.

## ***Session Highlights—July 17, 2023***

Engaged in some “getting to know you” activities with Pastor Christine.

Approved the purchase and installation of a baby changing table.

Voted to establish a Stewardship Committee. Elected Elder Sue Yowell to chair the group.

Noted that the Columbarium committee has an updated brochure for distribution.

Scheduled the Ice Cream Social for July 30 and the Pie Social for Aug. 27.

Verified that our current insurance will cover anyone conducting official PCCR business even if it occurs off site of the church.



## ***Deacon Highlights***

There was no meeting of the Deacons in July. The next scheduled meeting is on August 8<sup>th</sup>.



### ***Financial Information as of end of June, 2023***

	<b>Month of May</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Year to Date—Budget</b>
Total Revenues	\$30,177	\$191,068	\$180,815
Total Expenses	\$39,156	\$185,723	\$231,665
Net Total	-\$8,979	\$5,345	-\$50,850



# August 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 2:00pm-Summer Residents' Association-L 6:45pm-EVICS Group*	2	3 10:00am-Mission and Outreach-L 10:00am-Staff Meeting 5:00pm-EVICS Nutrition* 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:00pm-ESL Classes* 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm	4	5
6 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship, Communion	7 9:00am-Worship and Music 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:00pm-ESL Classes*	8 10:00am-Building and Grounds-L 1:00pm-Personnel-L 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers-L 6:45pm-EVICS Group* 7:00pm-Deacons-L	9 	10 8:30am-EPNRC Board* 10:00am-Staff Meeting 2:00pm-Worship&Music 5:00pm-EVICS Nutrition* 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm 6:30pm-Journeys Soul Work Group-L	11	12 9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH
13 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship	14 9:00am-Finance Committee 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:00pm-ESL Classes*	15 Newsletter Deadline 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 2:00pm-Summer Residents' Association 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's* 6:45pm-EVICS Group*	16	17 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:00pm-Columbarium-L 5:00pm-EVICS Nutrition* 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:00pm-ESL Classes* 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm	18	19
20 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship 1:00pm-Blessing of the Animals-OC	21 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:30pm-Session-L	22 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:45pm-EVICS Group*	23	24 10:00am-Staff Meeting 5:00pm-EVICS Nutrition* 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm	25 9:30am-Merry Marthas-FH	26
27 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Pie Social-FH	28 9:30am-Membership and Hospitality-FH 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	29 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:45pm-EVICS Group*	30	31 10:00am-Staff Meeting 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm		

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

## An invitation to a different type of social gathering

### Memory Café in Estes Park

Memory Café is a relaxed, social gathering for Estes Valley community members experiencing memory loss due to any form of dementia, together with their partner, family member, or friend. We stimulate engagement, attention and memory by enjoying coffee/snacks, conversation, singing, and sharing remembrances through games and activities. Research and the medical community encourage fun, social activity for all of us as we age but especially for those with memory loss. We aim to support caregivers as well, through fun and friendship.

This month on **Thursday, August 10th** our theme will be **Celebrating Summer Fun**. Come join us in jogging those memories of summer activities through a variety of games, snacking, singing, and friendship. We meet at **St. Bartholomew's Church** (880 MacGregor Ave) from **10:00 - 11:30** (second Thursday of every month). We hope you will join us!

Call Jane at 970-430-8105 for more information, if you would like to participate as guests or to volunteer to help.



*Ice Cream Social  
On July 30th*



*More smiles from the  
church picnic on  
July 9th*





***Thank you, Pastor Bruce***

**You were with us throughout Covid**

**You led our outside worship during 2020**

**You held us together through the Estes Park  
fire and evacuation**

**You filled in the gaps and smoothed the  
transition of pastors**

**You gave us continuity through difficult times**

**You blessed us with your message**

**You are an important part of our church and  
we thank you**