



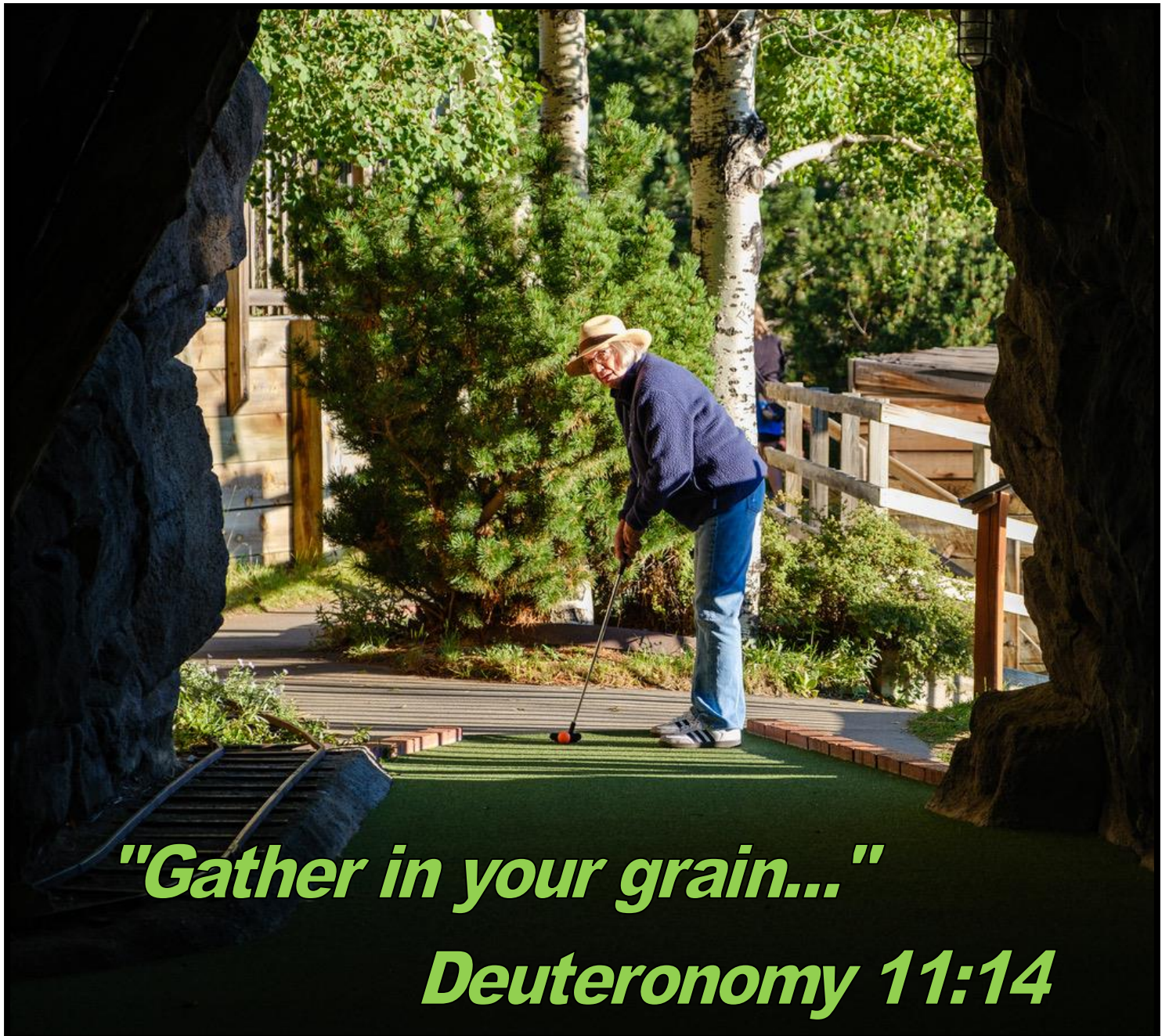
Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

October 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 10



"Gather in your grain..."

Deuteronomy 11:14



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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor@pccrusa.org

Financial Manager: Carolyn Hull, finance@pccrusa.org

Office Administrator: Meredith Ishida, office@pccrusa.org

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal, music@pccrusa.org

Choir Director: Rich Dixon

Organist: Larry Gillum



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 November Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, October 17. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

Sunday, October 1 — 10:00 am, Communion

Sunday, October 8 — 10:00 am

Sunday, October 15 — 10:00 am

Sunday, October 22 — 10:00 am

Sunday, October 29 — 10:00 am, Reformation Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, 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”.

Please Look...

- ⇒ 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) if and when you have any changes to your contact information. Thanks!

Check us out on Facebook!

Facebook is a branch of our outreach ministry, a 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. <https://www.facebook.com/PCCR1>



Webpage Suggestions

Help us update our webpage!

When you have a moment, navigate to pccrusa.org and take a look at the church website. The Communications Committee is looking for suggestions, corrections, and additions to the website, as well as new content and photos. Email office@pccrusa.org, or contact Peter Plaut.

October 2023

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Dear Friends,

Fall is here! The Elk Rut! The cool crisp mornings! The firing up of the fireplaces! The changing of the leaves! It's fall when I start to think about coming together for Thanksgiving holiday and getting into the pattern of the school year. Here at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies, fall is the time

when many of our beloved summer members return to their winter homes, our lawn becomes a favorite grazing spot for the animals, and our community returns to the permanent residents. It is that time when we feel that solidarity and that grit that comes with preparing for the winter months. I find it interesting that this is happening at the same time as the conclusion of our small group gatherings. I know that you are interested in my report and my suggestions as to how we might organize our steps forward.

In fall, we are reminded of the music of nature – the calling of the elk. It is perhaps no surprise that music is also the number one priority of the congregation. In the home visits, music – organ, choir, and bells – was named as central to our identity and our faith. People understand music as an aid to their faith and it helps the Biblical message come alive. Knowing this, we will continue to work together to make sure that the music and the message work together, and we will think of ways to use music to enhance our experience of God. To continue our music ministry, we do not need to start from scratch but continue to build on the strong program that we already have.

Like the elk gathering, a second priority was for Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies to be a community hub, which means a center for non-profit organizations, concerts, and other gatherings. In addition to being a center for the community, people also wanted the church to go out into the community. They see their role as Christians to be in service of the community. However, many folks mentioned that they felt we could do a better job at this on both ends. The problem with having people come in and go out has been COVID-19 and the slow recovery from it. In terms of coming in, our groups are starting to return. We now host EPNRC, EVICS, Ballet Renaissance, Oratorio practice and concert, Chorale practice and concert, four Girl Scout groups, AA groups, and Summer Residents, to name a few. I am also getting requests for weddings and funerals. If you check on the placard in the entry way, you can see the groups meeting each week. In terms of

going out, I think this too has suffered from COVID-19. The mission committee, however, is starting the process of looking at how we can support the community as a church and has proposed making Bolt Bags for Crisis Advocates.

I have also learned that elk are highly social animals! And, like the elk, we are also focused on our social groups. It is therefore no surprise that the next major priority is the church society and our willingness to be an open and inviting congregation, a group that enjoys fellowship together, and a group that is wanting to care for one another. I have found this to be our identity, but it is very important for us to continue to strive for openness with one another. One of the things that we do well is welcome visitors in worship, but I am curious if that is translating into welcoming new people into our broader fellowship. Right now, we don't really know. We will be returning to the friendship pads in the pews, so we can better care for those who are missing and reach out to those who are newly worshipping with us.

Finally, most of the groups mentioned felt strongly about reaching out to young families with children. We know that this demographic is missing in our congregation. The good news is that we have many wonderful ideas on

how we might begin reaching out to families again. This will not be an easy task or an overnight task, but I trust that God's church will grow. This is a long-range vision. First, we need to be ready for children. We are starting on this by adding a changing table in the women's restroom and children's worship aids, but this is only a beginning. Second, we need to have a program where we can invite and welcome children. We have a lot of ideas from a children's choir to a shortened VBS to an afterschool program, but right now, we are not offering programs for families. Finally, we will need to have church volunteers to make this happen.

Obviously, there were many more ideas and passions in these conversations, and I will organize them all into a spreadsheet so that we can make these choices together. There will be items that will be both low cost and easy to implement that will make a significant difference and other things will be high cost and high labor that we will have to think carefully about before we implement them. Still, I am so excited about all your energy, your dreams for our future and your passion as disciples of Christ, for "with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) And with our elk friends surrounding us, we are ready to expect even the most unexpected.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Christine Dempsey*



Mini-Golf Outing



Heavy rain and lightning on Sunday, September 10, led to the cancellation of the 2023 PC (USA) World Mission Benefit Mini-golf outing. The annual event provides financial support to honor two denominational mission co-workers: Chenoa Stock, serving in Peru, and Tyler Holm, serving in Malawi. Our church's mission budget includes line items for their support, so the proceeds from the mini-golf outing are supplemental funds.

Within a couple of days, the mini-golf outing was rescheduled for the following Saturday,

September 16: same time (5:00 p.m.) and same

The winning team of Mel & Leslie Causer watch teammate Brad Anderson make a putt.

Ride-A-Kart/Cascade Creek owner Andrew Kessler poses for a photo with the "Bunker Barbies" (from left): Sue Thomas, Diane Scruton, Kelley Anderson, and Deb Webb.

place (Cascade Creek course at Ride-A-Kart), thanks to the flexibility of course owners Kelly and Andrew Kessler. Instead of rain and lightning, the afternoon of Sept. 16 saw blue skies, sunshine, and perfect mini-golf weather! Thirty-eight players turned out to support our two denominational mission co-workers.

continued on facing page...



As of this writing, the 2023 mini-golf benefit has raised \$1,746.00. Contributions will continue to be accepted through the end of October, and total funds will be split between Chenoa Stock and Tyler Holm. Last year's mini-golf event generated \$2,000.00.

One foursome, riding on the popularity of the new "Barbie" movie, dressed in pink and dubbed themselves "Bunker Barbies." While playing mini-golf at Cascade Creek, they thought they had spotted Barbie's boyfriend, "Ken," on the other side of the Big Thompson River, but he turned out to be a random fly fisherman.

The winning team, with a score of 31 strokes, was comprised of Leslie & Mel Causer and Brad Anderson. Each player received a \$30 gift certificate from Poppy's Pizza & Grill/Mama Rose's Italian Restaurant (owned by Rob & Julie Pieper) and a \$25 gift certificate from Colorado Homestead (owned by the Taylor family, PCCR members).

With 32 strokes for second place, each player on the team of Jeff & Sandy Lindberg and Tom & Dott Dewitz received a "mini-golf cap" donated by iii (Image Enhancement Inc., a local specialty marketing firm owned by Marsha Sypher).



Stan Osborne lines up his putt as the rest of his team looks on.

The last place team, comprised of Sue Yowell and her family, was reminded of the recent CU Buffalo football victory over the Nebraska "Bug-eaters" (now known as the "Cornhuskers")...and the lesson learned by the Big Red in that game: that "there's always room for improvement." Each player on that team received a Big Red lip balm from Big Red of the Rockies in Estes Park.

—Dave Thomas



Peace and Global Witness

PEACE OFFERING REMINDER



On World Communion Sunday, October 1, our congregation will receive the Peace and Global Witness offering. Fifty percent of funds received are used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through projects of education and Christian witness. Mid councils retain 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. 25% will remain in Estes Park to support our own Restorative Justice partnership, which offers mediation, student circles, and community conversations. Several PCCR members have been involved in Restorative Justice and agree that it does good peacemaking work in our town.

Denise Lord, the executive director of the Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership, will give a minute for mission on October 1 and be available in Fellowship Hall after worship to answer questions.

To contribute to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, use the envelopes in the pews, write Peace Offering on your check, or use the "Donate" button on the PCCR website.

Thank you for working for peace, and may the peace of Christ be with you always!

-Betty Meyer/Mission and Outreach



Mahalo

Thank you to those who donated to the Maui wildfire victims' fund. We collectively gave \$5,016 out of our own pockets. Additionally, \$2,000 from Mission and Outreach's allocation was shared. Of this amount, \$3,508 will go to Hawaii Community Foundation and \$3,508 to PDA Hawaii Wildfires.

Thank you also to the musicians and congregation members who participated in the service. It was an incredibly moving and poignant day, a rose blooming in the ashes.

Supporting Our Presbytery



Dear Friends,

One of the reasons that I love being Presbyterian is the connections that I make with other Presbyterians throughout our denomination. It is so fun to join into an immediate conversation with others who share the same passion for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the jokes about being Presbyterian and the understanding of being a church that is reformed and continues to reform.

What many of you may not know, that in order to support our connectional church, we give money to the Presbytery every year. This helps support the operation of our church, helps support our church camp, Highlands camp and supports efforts to help seminarians and Commissioned Pastors continue their training. Right now, we give \$56 per member to support these efforts.

I know that when I started pledging out of my own earnings I was unaware of this connection and wanted to give separately to this specific obligation of the church rather than having the money come from my pledge dollars to the local church. So, if this is you, I hope that you will prayerfully consider a "per capita" pledge to the church to help support our broader denomination.

Grace and peace,
Christine



News from Malawi

Greetings from the Warm Heart of Africa! It is indeed "warm" -- you may substitute "hot". Fortunately it cools down to the low 70s overnight and in our brick room with no heat and concrete floors it is even a bit chilly when the 5 a.m. rising bell sounds. The bell is actually at the Robert Laws Secondary School, but is heard all over the Station.

School started in earnest on Monday so I've been doing some individual speech therapy and teaching in several classrooms. Very gratifying when the class 7 teacher, Mary Mtonga, took avid notes as I put the kids through Preposition Mountain. Now I have to go back and we will tackle Prepositional Phrases. Form 1 English has been slow going. One or two are very quick to understand but the rest struggle with the most basic concepts. Most of 2 days this week were lost to meetings. One on

Tuesday with the school Board, teachers, support staff and PTA to discuss why student progress is so poor; the other a visit from the Head of Station and the new area Chaplain. So it goes!

We have been to the open-air market and snagged some fresh peas and carrots-- veggies at last! Jim went to Mzuzu yesterday and came home with fresh strawberries, Chelsea rolls (kinds of a cinnamon roll) and corn flakes so we are eating like royalty! This morning we were at Primary School for Deaf to "help" plant the garden. Some of the seeds are from PCCR. Basically we watched while the older kids were instructed about what they should do, took pictures and tried to stay out of the way.

The power is beginning to flicker in preparation for the usual Sunday shutdown so I will close. Hope all is well in Estes.

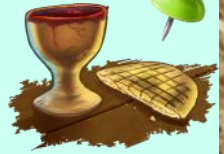
—Carol Nussbaumer



Groups and Events

World Communion Sunday: October 1st

We have a special Sunday planned for World Communion Sunday on October 1. World Communion Sunday is a chance to celebrate our Oneness in Christ with Christians throughout the Globe. This specific Communion Day first started in 1933 under the vision of Presbyterian minister Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr in Pittsburgh. In starting this tradition, he gave this gift of welcome and unity to all Christians. In celebrating this communion day, we will be taking an offering for the Peace and Global Witness Offerings, one of the four offerings promoted by the PCUSA. As a denomination, we can make a huge difference for people in need. 25% of this will stay with our congregation for work in our community, 25% goes to midcouncil mission efforts, and 50 % goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. In order to celebrate this special day, we have bells and choir singing music from around the world, we will return to passing the communion plates and partaking in global breads, and we will pray for brothers and sisters around the globe. As we are preparing for this special day, please bring Pastor Christine a story about the places around the globe that are on your heart.



Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

Please join Pastor Christine in the library every Wednesday at noon for Bible Study. We will be studying the book of Mark. Please bring your Bible – any translation is fine, as we will look at some of the interpretative nuances. Bring your lunch, as we start with a bit of fellowship!

You Belong Here! Membership Information Discussion!

You are welcome to join us for an informal conversation about membership at PCCR. Bring all of your questions about what it means to be a community church, to learn about our heritage in the PCUSA, and to ask questions about how we live and serve God. Both full-time residents and occasional visitors are encouraged to join us.

Our next New Member gathering will be on **Sunday, October 8th after worship** with a light lunch, fellowship and a time for question and answer. Please contact the church office, in person, or by phone 970-586-4404 or office@pccrusa.org with any questions. Be there!

Harvest Festival: Let's give thanks for our blessings.

The Membership and Hospitality Committee invites everyone to attend our annual Harvest Festival Soup Luncheon after worship on **Sunday, October 15 at 11 o'clock**. Each PCCR family is asked to bring a crock pot of hot soup to the Fellowship Hall prior to the 10:00 worship service. Beverages, bread, and dessert will be provided.

Pastor Christine's Installation

Save the date! Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey will be installed as Pastor of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies on **Sunday, November 12 at 3:30 pm**. Please join us in this ceremony of recognition and celebration.

Appointments with Pastor Christine

You are encouraged to come see Pastor Christine in the PCCR office. Introduce yourself, learn more about her, talk about your committee's needs or what is on your heart. The best way to assure that she will be available is to **make an appointment** by contacting her or the office. Monday and Tuesday mornings are reserved for bulletin preparation and she attends most Committee meetings so consider your availability outside of those times. Thank you!

Journeys

Journeys meets Sunday mornings in the Church library. Gathering begins at 8:15 a.m., with the program starting at 8:30.

For those who are unable to attend in person, there is an opportunity to join the gathering remotely. Since Journeys is primarily a discussion group, the Zoom platform is used for remote access. The Zoom link is:



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

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

The program topics for October are:

- October 1 The Garden of Eden Part II: The Curse of Judgement
- October 8 David Brooks: Lies our culture tells us about what matters
- October 15 Anjali Kumar went looking for God in some unexpected places
- October 22 The Parable of the laborers in the vineyard
- October 29 What does Christianity without dogma look like

Journeys also hosts a once a month in-person gathering called “soulful conversations”. It takes place on the second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. in the library. These gatherings consist of casual conversations related to one’s individual spiritual practices and spiritual growth.

Journeys sends out a weekly email with details about the plans for each week. If you would like to be on this email list, let the Church office know or contact Jim Daugherty at: jk@daughertys.us.



PW Bible Study – October 16, 2023

Sacred Encounters – Lesson Two

All women of the church are invited to participate in the Horizons Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters*, on Monday, October 16 at 12 noon. The lesson, “The Exorcism in Gerasa,” will be led by Karen Daugherty and is based on Luke 8:26-39. The study will reveal the ways in which Jesus is present with people who live without the support of their communities due to rejection, confusion and fear. Despite our society’s tendency to isolate people who are struggling, lesson two challenges us to trust that no illness (physical, spiritual or mental) has the power to exclude anyone from the saving grace of Jesus. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. in the church library for a brief social time, with the lesson beginning at 12 noon. Because the meeting occurs during the lunch hour, you are welcome to bring a sack lunch to eat during the meeting. The study books are available either from the church office or at the meeting for \$10. If you wish to join the meeting via Zoom, please contact Karen at jk@daughertys.us. We hope you will be able to join us for this meaningful discussion.

On Hiatus: Adult Sunday School & Sign Choir

Adult Sunday School and Sign Choir will take a break during October, to resume the first week of November.

“This Week at PCCR”

Next time you are at the church, take a look at the glass case in the entryway where we have begun posting a weekly list of events. You may be surprised at how well the church is being utilized, both by our own meetings and gatherings and also by outside groups. Perhaps you’ll see an event that you’d like to participate in or volunteer with. Contact the office if you would like more information on any of the listings or to get in touch with the leaders.

Session Highlights ~ September 2023

- ◆ Scheduled a New Membership Information class for October 8 following worship.
- ◆ Reviewed the new attendance forms to be used at worship services.
- ◆ Scheduled the installation ceremony for Pastor Christine for November 12.
- ◆ Considered a scheduling issue between a church group and a community group that uses our building. Voted to honor the community group that had placed their request on the calendar first.
- ◆ Noted that all church committees are asked to submit their 2024 proposed budgets to Carolyn in the Finance office by the end of October.
- ◆ Scheduled the Harvest Festival for October 15. Everyone is asked to bring soup.
- ◆ Denied a request to loan out our dishes. They are no longer available and cannot be replaced if broken or lost.

Deacon Highlights ~ September 2023

- ◆ Deacons are keeping in touch with two members who have been in the hospital. Cards have been sent and meals will be delivered when it is appropriate.
- ◆ Deacons discussed what should be done as a ministry to Good Samaritan residents. We want to be responsive to what they would like to have. A small group indicated that they would rather have rides to church with individuals than in a van or small bus. They would enjoy a time of fellowship with people from the church.
- ◆ We will serve the communion bread by passing actual bread on October 1, 2023 for the first time since Covid. Juice will be in sealed cups. This is a tentative plan depending on the Covid Infection rate.
- ◆ Deacons will serve coffee hour next Sunday, September 17.

Financial Information August 2023

	August	January-August	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$27,753	\$253,616	\$241,087
Total Expenses	\$25,320	\$231,579	\$308,887
Net Total	\$2,433	\$22,037	-\$67,800

***Revenue includes \$16,011 Employee Retention Tax Credit**







Gratitude

Frank Johnke's 80th birthday was on September 16th, and Frank wanted to say thanks to everyone who sent him a birthday card. He much appreciated hearing from so many friends at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies.

Leadership Opportunity

We are looking for a few people who are willing to be Small Group Leaders for an Advent Study starting in November. We will be studying Walter Brueggemann's Names For the Messiah. You choose the time and place, and Pastor Christine will provide the framework and support. Contact the church office if you are willing to lead. Sign-ups for non-leading participants will be offered later.

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship – World Communion Sunday 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH	2 9:00am-Worship and Music 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes*	3 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group*	4 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	5 10:00am-Mission and Outreach-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm	6 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH	7 
8 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Membership Information Discussion 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH 	9 COLUMBUS DAY / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY 9:00am-Finance Comm-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH	10 10:00am-Building and Grounds-L 1:00pm-Personnel-L 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers-L 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group* 7:00pm-Deacons-L	11 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	12 8:30am-EPNRC Board* 10:00am-Staff Meeting 1:00pm-Foundation-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:00pm-Journeys: Soul Work Group-L 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm	13 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:30pm-Girl Scout Daisies*	14 9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH
15 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Harvest Festival – FH 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH	16 11:30am-PW-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes* 6:30pm-Session-L	17 Newsletter Deadline 11:45am-AA Group-Lounge 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group*	18 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	19 11:45am-AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm-Columbarium-L 5:00pm-EVICS Family Night* 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm	20 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 	21 
22 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH	23 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 	24 11:45am-AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group*	25 9:00am-Piano Tuning-S 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	26 10:00am-Staff Meeting 11:45am-AA Group-Lounge 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm	27 9:30am-Merry Marthas-FH 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:30pm-Girl Scout Daisies*	28 
29 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH	30 9:30am-Membership and Hospitality-FH 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH	31 11:45am-AA Group-Lounge 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group*				

Note: Calendar events subject to change

*Downstairs Room 6



Grace and Grub—September 25, 2023

