



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

November 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 11

"The hungry he fills with good things."



Psalm 107.9



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 December Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, November 21. Please send your pictures and stories to: 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:

Sunday, November 5 — 10:00 am, Communion

11:30 am, All Saint's Day Service

Sunday, November 12 — 10:00 am, Kirkin' o' the Tartans

3:30 pm, Pastoral Installation

Sunday, November 19 — 10:00 am

Sunday, November 26 — 10:00 am, Stewardship 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>

November 2023

**Message from Pastor Christine
Dempsey . . .**

Dear friends,

In scripture, we are called to worship the Lord with all of our being. Sometimes when I read the scripture, it reminds me that our worship sounds like a raucous party.

Come, let's sing out loud to the LORD!

Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!

Let's come before him with thanks!

Let's shout songs of joy to him! (Psalm 95 CEB)

So, in November, our worship is all about celebrating the Lord with our whole being. On November 5, we will be celebrating All Saints Day. During worship, we will remember the friends in our church community who have passed in the last two years. We will read their names in thanksgiving for lives. After that service, we will be hosting a short Columbarium service complete with guitars, where we will remember our friends who are inurned at the Columbarium as well as the memory of those whom we continue to mourn and remember. If you would like to hold up the memory of a loved one, please get their name to me or to Meredith before November 5. Even if you forget, we can add them to our list on the day of November 5.

On November 12, our worship celebration continues with our Heritage Sunday. As you know, our Presbyterian Heritage has roots in the Scottish church. So, this is a "be a Scot" for a day Sunday. On this day, we will enjoy bagpipes, Kirkin' of the Tartan, and a little history. If you don't have a Tartan, that's OK, you can make your own plaid or pattern with markers on a piece of paper and join in the fun. What we are celebrating is our own heritage and our own family as part of the Body of Christ. You will also see, on that day, the Presbyterian Confessional Banners that remind us that we are a church that is Reformed and continues to Reform.

Later on November 12, at 3:30, you are all invited to my Installation Service. In the PCUSA, a minister must be installed by the Presbytery. This is a different kind of church service that reminds me of my solemn oath to serve this church as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, and likewise, the promise of the church to faithfully serve God. During this service, I will take the same vows as our Elders and Deacons but within the context of the Presbytery service. My dear friend and mentor, Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald will be preaching, and we will hear unique charges in our respective roles to serve God. I hope that you come and witness this wonderful practice of the church.

Our joy continues on November 19th as we celebrate Carolyn Hull's 25th year as our Financial Secretary. While we are celebrating Carolyn, we are also celebrating this church and our financial stewardship for all of these years. This will be a time for us to reflect on how we have served God not only with our hearts but also from fruits of our labor. Carolyn has so proudly told me of all the wonderful ministries and mission that we have supported over the years improving both the physical and spiritual lives of people throughout the community.

Our November wraps up with our Christ the King Sunday on November 26th. This day marks the last Sunday of the Church Calendar and is the day when we are reminded of Christ, who is King. As we reflect on Christ as King, we reflect on Jesus reminding us that his kingdom is not of this world. While it is technically the Sunday after Thanksgiving, it reminds us of the thanksgiving we have in those things that are of Christ – of love, hope, joy, and peace. It is a time of gratitude. I have been jokingly calling this our Big White Sunday, and I am excited to worship with you on this day of Thanksgiving. In response to our gratitude in Christ, we will also be celebrating our Stewardship commitments for 2024. Bring your Big White Pledge Cards to celebrate this day.

Friends, in gratitude, thank you for being you!

Grace and peace

Christine ♥



A Feast For the Soul



This October, the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies truly offered a full menu of events for diners... er, members, to choose from!

We began with an appetizer on October 1, World Communion Sunday, with a selection of global hymns and anthems. Worshipers that day enjoyed Communion in the more traditional style of being served from plates, rather than our covid-era individual prepacks. There were not one or two, but four forms of the host to choose from: white bread, pitas, a gluten free loaf, and traditional wafers. The service ended with everyone

singing along to an uplifting rendition of “Siyahamba” by the Chancel Choir, accompanied by our pint-sized musicians on percussion.

The mood became more solemn on October 14 when, in response to the Israel-Hamas conflict, Pastor Christine organized and led a Prayer Vigil. PCCR congregants as well as our fellow community members were invited to come light a candle, pray, or simply sit in silence holding our global brothers and sisters in our hearts.





On the following Sunday, PCCR celebrated Harvest Festival, a fun church event marking the changing of the seasons. The Fellowship Hall was decorated with reds and yellows that echoed the aspen leaves just outside our doors. Hungry attendees lined up to enjoy a potluck soup feast, then finished it off with a delicious pumpkin dessert .

The interesting fun fact about the dessert is that it was made in six different kitchens. All the bakers (Membership and Hospitality Committee members) used the same recipe. Yet, in a fascinating metaphorical twist, each batch came out slightly different. Whose was extra sweet? Whose was just a little more nutty than the rest? Unfortunately, they were not labeled, so we may never know!



Following a Membership Information Discussion two weeks prior, October 22 brought us four new members. Muriel deGanahl, Liam Dempsey, Mike Dempsey, and Jack Holmquist were welcomed into the church family during worship on the fourth Sunday in October. We are glad to have you with us!

And finally, for the few that braved the snow and cold, an incredible dessert! October 29, Reformation Sunday, was a day to tell the story of our faith tradition, to acknowledge that we are loved and valued for

who we are rather than what we do, and to remember to extend love and grace to others. Despite a snowstorm the night before, followed by a town-wide power outage, we celebrated this day with Brass, Reformation era hymns, and a lesson about who we are in Christ.



All in all, this was indeed a month of feasts for the body, mind, and spirit. And as always, all were welcome at the table.

You are cordially invited to a Service of

Installation as Pastor

for

**The Reverend Doctor
Christine Dempsey**

Sunday, November 12th, 2023

3:30 p.m.

**Presbyterian Community Church
of the Rockies**

1700 Brodie Avenue, Estes Park, Colorado



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

Upcoming Worship Services

All Saints Day Service

Sunday, November 5, 11:30 am

We will be holding a service at the Columbarium to remember our loved ones who have passed. Please let us know if you have someone who you would like us to hold up in memoriam on this day (they do not need to be in the Columbarium). All are welcome at the service on November 5; be sure to dress warmly!

Kirkin' o' the Tartans

Sunday, November 12, 10:00 am

On Heritage Sunday, November 12, we will have a fun, lively service known as Kirkin' o' the Tartans. This Scottish-style service, complete with bagpipes, began in the 18th century when the British Parliament forbade the wearing of the kilt or tartan. Clan members would secretly stuff small bits of their tartan into their clothing on Sundays. During worship, at a secret signal, they would hold up the tartan and the priest would subtly speak a blessing over each clan as well as their Scottish heritage.

We too will be honoring our collective heritage. You are invited to "become a Scot" for the day and create your own Tartan out of paper or cloth to participate in the "Kirkin' o' the Tartans!"



Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 26, 10:00 am

Join us after Thanksgiving for a day of continued gratitude for our church family and our spiritual lives. We will also renew our Stewardship Commitments for the year.

Save the Dates!

- Congregational meeting to elect church officers - December 17, 2023
- Ordination and Installation of officers - January 7, 2024
- Annual meeting of the congregation - February 4, 2024

Thank Offering Sunday

November 5, 2023

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:14-15

Every fall, Presbyterian Women (PW) celebrate Thank Offering Sunday as an expression of deep gratitude for God's blessings in their lives. What a joy it is to have Pastor Christine preach the sermon for this special Sunday. By giving to the Thank Offering, we support ministries that lift up people through arts and technology programs, community gardening projects, mental health outreach, safe housing, improved access to health care and so much more. This program began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. In 2023, that one dollar from 1888 is valued at \$32.40. Since this program began more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world have benefitted from the Thank Offering. This year seven projects were selected out of twenty-eight applications. Six are in the United States and one is international. More than forty percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries. A sample of the projects include:

- **Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc.** (Florida) – This project will provide safe and affordable housing for agricultural workers and other families who pay up to seventy percent of their income to reside in dilapidated and crowded trailers. The Thank Offering grant will support the first neighborhood building consisting of sixteen apartments. The units will provide families with long term stability in clean, adequate housing that will improve family life and provide children with a healthy foundation so they can study and learn.
- **Phalaza Rural Health Center** (Zambia) – This project will provide residents of Phalaza with access to a health-care facility which will include maternal services such as prenatal, delivery and postnatal care as well as primary care of children and much more. The new health center will also relieve overcrowding and long wait times throughout rural eastern Zambia.

On Sunday, November 6, we will be accepting your gifts for this special offering. Envelopes will be provided for those attending the worship service. You may also give to the offering by sending a check to our church treasurer, Carolyn Hull, with a notation that it is for the Thank Offering, or by going to the PCCR website and clicking on "Contribute" at the top of the page. Our congregation has a long history of being very supportive of this important ministry. Please join us again this year as we each "let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. And be thankful." Your gifts will bring light and joy to those who are hungry for hope.





Merry Marthas Will Display Items on Thank Offering Sunday

November 5, 2023

Members of Merry Marthas are Estes Park ladies who like to sew, knit, weave or crochet. They meet the fourth Friday of each month to share projects they have completed and enjoy conversation. They collect their projects all year, and in November they display everything at the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies on Thank Offering Sunday. Then they decide which local charity would be a good recipient for each item. Charities this year will include Bright Christmas, Blue Santa, Crisis Advocates, and a VA Hospital in Wyoming in addition to the scarves and hats already donated to the Crossroads Coat Drive. Merry Marthas is an ecumenical ministry of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies, and membership is open to any woman who lives in the Estes Park area. They always welcome new members no matter what the skill level.

Grace and Grub

Grace and Grub is a casual supper group within our church. We began in September of 2011 with 8 members. For several years now we have had more than 75 people involved. During the summer months we meet at Endovalley picnic area in RMNP to roast hot dogs. Most of the other months we meet in small groups in the homes of members for a short devotion, great conversation and really good food supplied by the host and the attendees. In December we have an early Christmas celebration brunch and on Shrove Tuesday in February we cook and serve a pancake supper which is a fund raiser for Crossroads. The public is invited to share that meal and enjoy first-rate pancakes, festive décor, and great music.

Through the years at the park we have dealt with rain and a few very interesting meals. Once our potluck meal consisted of one bag of potato chips, hot dogs, and many desserts. Another time we ended up at EndoValley with no silverware. Everyone quickly went to their cars and returned with a huge assortment of spoons, forks, sporks, napkins, and straws. Once, the pastor arrived quite late and we had just run out of plates. He ate his supper on a frisbee. All was well!

It has been exciting to see this group grow and watch many friendships being formed. Members invite new people they meet in church and this has helped make prospective members of our congregation feel welcome and included in our church. Grace and Grub is a great group!

If you are interested in seeing if this group is a good fit for you, join us for a month or two. Contact Joy Holcomb at 970-586-9600 or Joyholcomb11@gmail.com.



Notes from the Mission Field

Editor's note: For the past 25 years, Carol and Jim Nussbaumer have been spending two months each year volunteering in Malawi. Jim is affiliated with the Marion Medical Mission, an organization bringing clean water to those who need it most. Carol has used her skills and talents to reach the hearing-impaired youth of Africa. Both are working to nourish the hearts as well as bodies of those living in extreme poverty. What follows are excerpts from her letters written during their most recent trip.



Aug 28, 2023: Dear Pastor and Meredith,

Just a heads up for you as Jim & I get ready to leave for Malawi. I write a general letter to a number of people in the States, including PCCR, which comes about once a week.

I also want to tell you -- in the interest of transparency -- that when I received the Call for this mission adventure in 1995 I gave a whole-hearted "no thank you"! It took 18 months to finally accept that I was, indeed, being Called and it was past time to just hush up and get on the plane. (I did not like to fly. I did not feel comfortable in new cultures with new foods. Can't learn languages. Was done with speech therapy and going to become a professional quilter. I explained all this quite carefully to God, but God just kept giggling at me, kept closing doors that did not lead to Malawi and gently urged me on toward the correct door standing wide open.) In other words, we really need prayer support!

Have a blessed week,
Carol Nussbaumer, Speech-Language Pathologist

Sep 11, 2023: Greetings from the Warm Heart of Africa!

We got here right at 12:30 pm yesterday and for a wonder immigration and baggage collection went very smoothly. We are staying at a place called the Thope Lodge which has gilt-seeming chairs in the dining hall and no water coming out of the shower.

Two of my former students from Embangweni Primary School for Deaf met me and we had a lovely reunion while all the bags got loaded. Jim had brought over a laptop for Blessings to aid in his new job as Youth Coordinator for MANAD (Malawi National Association for the Deaf); he and Jim had spent an hour or so at the airport getting acquainted with the new computer before we arrived. I always count it a bonus to see Blessings since I doubt his life expectancy is long: deaf, vision impaired, sickle cell anemia and HIV+ . He asked me once "Mama, what did I do to deserve all this?" But he was fine yesterday and so I cherish those moments.

All day today was training with Marion Medical Mission. There is a great crew of volunteers here this year with only 1 absolute newbie. He looks a bit overwhelmed, which is understandable. Tomorrow 4 of us will head up to Embangweni. The trip may take longer than the usual 3 hours since the main road is in terrible condition with potholes everywhere. Rick and Chuck will be there for the first week and then may be moved around as there are wells available. We were told this morning in training that the supervisors (i.e. the Africans who really run the program) plan to put in 4098 wells in the next 6 weeks (The official goal is 3000; funding is already there for only about 1900. God will provide!) I wish you could be there to see and hear the enthusiasm and passion coming from these guys. They are so amazing!

That's it for now -- more next week when something has begun to happen!



Sep 16, 2023: Hello, Everyone!

I have already written this week but will continue on Saturday as usual. We are ending our first week here at Embangweni and things are pretty much back to normal. Lots of old friends stopping by -- I don't know quite how the word spreads of our arrival, but it does! We were still unloading when Steven Zulanga appeared. He is the man who, in 1997, took us out to his village (walking 9 km each way) and showed us our first shallow well saying "Now my babies don't die anymore." He is poor beyond belief and yet on Wednesday appeared again with gifts from his garden: a bunch of huge red onions, a few dozen potatoes and a bag of ground nuts (peanuts). The guest house kitchen is enriched as are we by his unfailing generosity and gratitude for the few small things we have provided over the years. Another long-time friend, Franklin Ngoma, also stopped by. In contrast to Steven, Franklin is educated, employed and well-spoken. He also enriches our lives by his presence. The Head of Station (also the pastor here) and the Presbytery Executive have also stopped to say hello.



School has started -- more or less. Most of the Primary students are here and I may have at last understood the new schedule. No more daily assembly -- only once a week. It begins at 6:45. Learners are to be in the building by 6:30. Other days they are to be lined up outside their classroom by 6:45; the teacher is to greet each one and answer questions before going into class. I have yet to be on time, as the guest house kitchen doesn't get breakfast out until about 6:15 and it is a 15 minute walk to school. Tea breaks are now scattered in time depending on the class. I will miss the old system of gathering for tea and chat! On Friday I was finally able to be in class with some of the kids and do some work. I was shadowed around by a very young woman who is a new teacher here -- I think very overwhelmed.

I spent Friday afternoon at the Secondary School for Deaf showing the head teacher what he can do with Power



Point and a new projector given by the government. He is excited to learn to use it and I think it can be a very powerful tool for the teachers. Jim has spent the week at the MMM pump workshop working to get new racks for the steel pipe built. The pump supervisor, Mr. Soko, saves up projects all year until Jim gets here with ideas and, most importantly, Marion Medical funds to pay for them!

Oct 1, 2023: Greetings to All!

We had a wonderful worship service today -- just the team after breakfast. We were led by a Tanzanian MMM Co-Ordinator, the Rev. Elisha Mwasakifwa, who is a Lutheran pastor and actually turned down an offer to become Bishop to continue with Marion Medical. He preached on the bit of Acts 5 where Peter is freed from prison by the angel. It was incredibly moving! At the end he began to hum "Blessed Assurance" and encouraged all to sing in their own language. Soon we heard Swahili, Chitumbuka, Chichewa and English all blending softly in this beautiful hymn. And, yes, one white woman was signing it. As Robert Frost might have said, "You sing, too."

The thing that always strikes me as we drive south from Embangweni --- where we live as close to "in poverty" as I care to get -- is how very, very poor this country is. We drove for 3 hours passing scattered homes and villages, most of which you at home would think were abandoned some time ago. Goats crossing the road; an occasional herd of cattle. People setting up small roadside stands to sell their produce, mostly a few small pyramids of tomatoes (each pyramid usually sells for about 50 cents) and potatoes with a few papaya. Sometimes a young boy would be at the side of the road with a chicken raised above his head, hoping someone will stop and buy. People walking everywhere, although recently we have begun to see more bikes and motorcycles. Women almost always have a baby on the back and a bucket of water on the head. Three hours of unrelenting poverty. In Denver you might drive through the "poor" section with maybe a homeless camp for a few blocks before prosperity returned. In Malawi, except in the capital city, the poverty never ends. Bikes loaded with 3 or 4 50kg bags of maize going to or from the closest maize mill struggle to stay upright. Or maybe with a man and woman riding off to somewhere, the woman serenely perched sidesaddle behind the man. On a school day there would have been masses of kids walking, running, chatting on the way to school. A closer look would reveal that the uniforms are clean but ragged; the kids are barefoot and carry few books. Most are under-nourished. TIM: This Is Malawi.



Oct 7, 2023: Good Morning! It is 6:30 a.m. in Colorado as I write this -- 2:30 p.m. in Malawi. Slow hot Saturday here and so I will write (and stay awake to do so!)

School as usual for me but made somber by a major discipline issue. Saturday night one of the "big boys" got into a fight with one of the girls. (These oldest students are not "boys" and "girls" but young men and women in late teens). Some of his friends got into it and they beat up the girl pretty badly. Other boys saw what was happening and ran to town to get the police. (Also a breach of school rules but I think overlooked.) The result is 7 boys have been expelled and no one is happy about any of this. They have thrown away the only chance they had at getting ahead in this culture.

My days, as usual, are split between the little kids who do not yet have much, if any, speech and the Form 1 English class. The little guys are what make my heart sing! Give me a kid who doesn't have any speech and I'm in hog heaven. So far have been moderately successful at managing to get some vocalization from all of them and a few things that may turn into words. The teachers are often more excited than the kids! Kennedy Banda in Preschool 3 breaks into laughter and applause when one of his kids says "bola" (ball); Mrs. Nyirongo, the headteacher, tends toward waving hands (the deaf applause) and hugs. Preschool 2 teacher, Mr. Derek Chisiza, is himself deaf and can't hear the responses but reacts to my reactions with huge smiles. Preschool 1 teacher, Mr. Bvutani, never expresses much but pays me the huge compliment of saying "Come in my class any time."

Form 1 English has gone a bit better since I tossed out the Malawian version of teaching. We have been plowing through an African folk tale (labeled in the books "Oral Literature", which is a bit confusing). I think we maybe were supposed to skip it (too hard) but I'm a bit stubborn..

Oct 14, 2023: Greetings, All! Here is the final (probably) missive from Malawi. We are entering the final week for this trip and are ready to return Stateside. Especially since we hear you are possibly getting snow while here the heat has turned on. 95 degrees yesterday when I walked home from school and about that today. Yesterday we got cloud cover around noon which helped moderate the heat a little bit. We do worry a bit about the MMM teams working in this, especially those over by Lake Malawi, where it is forecast to reach 40 Celsius or 104 F. Some of them are in hilly country with jungle-like growth; it is a game reserve and they actually saw elephant a couple days ago. We've driven through there and it is pretty rough. And the elephants don't seem to like intruders. We are in "special holiday" time here so my work has been off-and-on.

Thursday was Robert Laws Birthday, a Station holiday. In case you have forgotten our mission history, Dr. Laws was a Scottish missionary who was in what is now Malawi for 50 years, starting in 1875. He was never in what is now Embangweni, but started churches fairly close by. The local secondary school for boys is named for him and he is honored here. Hence the mission station holiday. Friday the Primary school was as normal but when I went to my Form 1 English class there were no students in the room. A couple of boys came in and one said "Madam, there is no class today. It is clean-up day." Further investigation revealed that Malawi's President has declared the 2nd Friday of each month as clean-up day for schools. So the kids were all out watering plants, sweeping the paths, etc. Tomorrow is Mother's Day, but as usual, it is observed on Monday. One would hate to miss an excuse for a school holiday. With luck we will have school Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and I will plan to take Friday morning to go around to classes, take pictures and say "bye". Saturday morning we will return borrowed goods to Dr. & Mrs. Maclean, load the truck and head off to Mponela for the end-of-season gathering. We fly Sunday afternoon to Frankfurt and then into Denver. This evening we are invited to the Maclean's for dinner (shepherd's pie is promised). Always lovely to spend time with them!



Oct 19, 2023: Greetings! I know I said last Saturday was the last from this Warm Heart of Africa, but I just must send a few pictures and a thought about this special place. Today was my last day with the students; spent it visiting classrooms and handing out pens then taking "snaps". The pens were a donation several years ago from a University in Montana. They had ordered 10,000 and the wrong email address was printed. So we got about half of them and have been spreading them across Malawi ever since! Anyway -- special day and I love it when the kids see themselves on my camera and light up! At tea (9:30) this morning, Head Teacher told me they had forgotten to tell me that there will be a party in my honor at 4:30 today. Not a total shock, as we usually are given some kind of send-off. We arrived at the right time (thinking it might be on Malawi time and things would begin about 5:30) but people were gathered. We were escorted into the chapel/assembly hall --- dancing in would be more accurate -- all the students were already there in



place. All 100 jumped to their feet as we entered, clapping and cheering. I'm not sure that American students would do that unless I were the winning coach! Anyway -- typical lovely evening with speeches (some too long), a drama by the students, a thank you from the Head Girl, a tribal dance by some boys and finally presentation of gifts. One for each of us, held by and danced in by 2 of the teachers. We opened them to find blue shirts: mine reading "We Love You Mama Carol" and Jim's "We Love You Dad". The kids went wild and wilder still when we put them on. Funny how hard it is to then give a speech when your throat seems to be clogged up or something.

Love, Mom/Carol/Gogo

A Place at the Table: A Letter from Chenoa Stock, serving Peru

Dear friends,

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead, ...*

When I sang this hymn, “For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table,” at Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian, in Cleveland, Ohio, where our family has been attending, my heart was filled with so many emotions, as it beautifully reflected God’s mission, including our partnership in Peru.

As I continue to serve remotely with partners, it is easy to get caught up in the news readily accessed online: flooding caused by the warming effects of El Niño on the Pacific Ocean, further flooding caused by Cyclone Yaku, a regional dengue outbreak due to that flooding, elongated droughts in the Andean south, and continued political turmoil filled with rampant corruption by politicians.

So yes, it is easy to see that Peru and our partners there are facing many challenges and injustices throughout the country. For a partnership that is built on prayer and faithful accompaniment, it is important to know these facts. But where is hope amidst such challenges?

I believe that hope was felt and heard in the voices of our partners during the virtual gathering PERUSA, the ministry program that facilitates partnerships between U.S. churches and Peruvian partners, held in May, when four partners of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network shared about their work and ministries that intentionally give everyone “a place at the table.”

Milushka Rojas, the director of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network, presented a review of Peru’s history from 1980, sharing events that essentially led to the inequality and injustice that today is a cause of the country’s politics, social dynamics, and, most recently, the world’s highest death rate per capita from COVID-19 including the election and subsequent impeachment of José Pedro Castillo Terrones. Since then his indigenous supporters have marched and protested for new elections, a new constitution, and justice for those who have died at the hands of the armed forces.

Milushka, herself, commented that she recognized that what she shared was not always “good news,” but it is the current truth of the country. The other truth she shared, though, was that the partners of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network have supported their partners in these struggles. They advocated for vaccines for Peru in the early times of the pandemic, they supported soup kitchens for those lacking food, and most recently, provided food, hygienic materials, tents, as well as emotional and psychological support for those marching for justice. They have brought those in need to the table and provided them with “clean water and bread.”

Ebed Grijalva Yauri and **Lucio Vila Huanca** from the Ecumenical Center for Social Action and Promotion (CEDEPAS). Lucio, an agronomist and environmental specialist, shared how climate change and the droughts had affected the crop yield of the Picaflor Cututuni community, the overall crop storage and food insecurity. CEDEPAS worked with 32 families to provide greenhouses. When it was discovered that there was a scarcity of underground water and no access to irrigation for the greenhouses, they worked with the local government to create an irrigation system that operated on solar energy to provide organic crops for the families. This community-led project allowed families to come together to the table to provide a “shelter” and a “space” to contribute to their own food security in a sustainable way that cared for God’s creation and empowered their community.

Sherly Echavarría, project coordinator for Filomenas Tomaira Pacsi, based in the central highlands of La Oroya, then presented on the issues faced by children during the pandemic. As Peru's schools were virtual for two years, many rural children did not have regular schooling due to no internet access. Filomenas, building from their ongoing work with their rural community's children and youth, provided school materials, courses, equipment, and in-home tutors for families during the pandemic. They brought those children and families, who otherwise might have been left behind, to the table and provided them with a "safe place for growing" and learning during an unsafe and uncertain time.

Our final presenter was **Eduardo Arboccó**, president of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network, president of the Brotherhood of the Christian Life (a Joining Hands partner), and an Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP) pastor. Eduardo shared about the role of the church during these current times of political and social crisis. We learned that one of the first people to be killed by the police in the protests was Beckham Romario Quispe Garfias, a 17-year-old member of a rural IEP church in Andahuaylas. As is the case for the many protests during this time, the government took no action to seek justice for the deaths that occurred. Eduardo shared that the church has been complicit in this tragedy, as many turned a blind eye to the atrocities and injustices that were happening in their regions and marched for Peru's armed forces to "put order" back into the country. However, different denominations came together as an ecumenical voice of solidarity and commitment and marched with the protestors; provided food, water and lodging; and wrote declarations to the government, speaking out against the injustices the protestors and many indigenous populations were facing.

Eduardo takes us to the next verse of the hymn:

*For all who share life, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for all who share life, a system that's fair,...*

God calls us **ALL** to share in abundant life. God says that **ALL** are welcome to the table. Each partner that presented serves and works for "revising the roles" in Peru – of the church, of society, of the government – in order that all can come to the table, as they are, knowing they have an equal voice in "a system that's fair."

And as we work toward that in Peru and around the world, let us **ALL**, loudly and boldly sing and be the chorus together.

*... and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

God's Peace,
Chenoa

For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table
Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company



Tyler's Mother's Visit:

A Letter from Tyler Holm, serving in Malawi

My mom, Marian, is visiting us in Malawi. This is her fourth trip to Malawi. In this letter, she shares the changes that she has seen in the community and our work.

Dear friends,

This morning when I went out for my daily walk, I was struck by how smiles and laughter know no language barriers. It seems that there are people walking everywhere. The children were on their way to school laughing and chatting together. The older children hardly dare glance at the old, white woman walking fast while the young children would often stop and stare at the strange sight walking without a large bundle on her head like their mother might have on her way to sell peanuts, bananas or avocados. While women are often walking with huge loads on their heads, men will often be walking alongside their bicycles with an extremely tall load of lumber or parts of trees piled very high on the seat. As always in past visits, the number of people walking is one of the things that seems extremely different than at home where we all drive everywhere.

Most of the time women wear simple chitenge cloth wrapped around as a skirt and always cover their knees and their upper arms. One can occasionally see a young woman wearing slacks or leggings at the university. At the English-speaking worship service on Sunday morning, almost all were wearing western dress, but very conservative and formal, jackets for the men and conservative dresses for the women. The university is near Tyler and Rochelle's home church which attracts many young people. The service we attended starts at 6 a.m.! How many college students do you know would get up and go to a 6 a.m. service on Sunday? As this was early in the academic term, there were not only hundreds in the congregation but additionally, they welcomed some 30 (!) visiting university students who were attending for the first time. I do have to say that not everyone was on time, but the auditorium was full by the time the sermon started. And how blessed would we be if we had 30 young adults new on a typical Sunday morning. As in past times that we have visited Malawi, I've been struck that men sit on one side of the sanctuary and women sit on the other side. The church service lasted over two hours and when it was over, hundreds more people were standing outside waiting to go in for the second service. The second service will have over a thousand attending with standing room only. Then there is a third service! It seems that there is a hunger for the Lord that is seldom seen in the U.S.

Tyler's academic position at the University of Livingstonia Faculty of Theology continues as in all of my previous trips. This is my fourth visit to Malawi and as a mother, I am always pleased with the philosophy behind Presbyterian mission work and Tyler's position at Ekwendeni. The old saying comes to mind of giving a person a fish and he will have food for a day





but teach a person to fish and he will have food for life. Teaching seminary students so that they can go back to their communities knowing their customs and language and also looking like them seems much more productive than the older style of mission work. The seminary students were learning “to fish.” When I visited the seminary where Tyler teaches this trip, I was again struck by the warmth of the people who are students there and also by the staff. And that all these are leading and part of the vibrant church I have observed.

Each of the times that I have visited Malawi I am struck by what a beautiful country it is. Mzuzu, where Tyler, Rochelle and Mphatso live, is surrounded by beautiful mountains. The area is very green due to the rains on this visit. The second week I arrived here, it rained for six days straight although usually constant rains have stopped by April, I have been told. It seemed like the amount of rainfall in Mzuzu during those six days was about what we get in a whole year in eastern Washington! Since this is the Southern Hemisphere, fall is starting with winter coming opposite our summers in the Northern Hemisphere. Despite the intense rains, the growing season is nearly over. The corn that has been planted in the small plots near walkways and other small plots is mature and will soon be harvested. The corn will feed families for an entire year since corn is a staple in Malawi.

The roads seem rougher than I remember in past visits. Usually, there would be huge potholes farther out in the country but this year it seems that there are many bumpy roads in town as well. Maybe, because of the recent intense rains, the roads are worse. When it rains those holes in the roads fill up with water and it is deceptive how deep they are. With cars driving on the left side of the road, often for a split second, I will head for the opposite side of the car to sit in the front passenger seat and then will remember where I am. Driving in Mzuzu is something I do not want to do for many reasons!

There are so many things that we in the U.S. take for granted. Besides good roads and being able to get what is on your grocery list, there often are power outages here. On this trip we’ve been fortunate to have power on the weekends but one time it was out for nearly three days. Last week it was out for 20 hours on one day and we never know if a 10-minute outage will extend to days. Tyler and Rochelle are well prepared after living here for many years and always have

recharged lanterns and quick no-power dinner ideas. Sometimes the internet is “out” so one has to get creative and deal with what’s currently available, and sometimes that is a game of cards by lantern with my granddaughter Mphatso.

As I look out at the hillside with the reddish-brown dirt road going up while writing this, I see people walking up and down the road with many of the houses having only parts of their roofs showing in the green, lush hillside as they build their house little-by-little. Maybe I will see some of these same neighbors on Sunday morning walking to church and maybe also some of these children will someday grow up to be students at the University of Livingstonia. I am reminded of the verse, “Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121). This experience reminds me of how grateful I am for the people who have been the Lord’s “hands and feet” and have prayed and financially supported to help Tyler and Rochelle’s work to continue for more than 10 years here in Mzuzu.

We (Rochelle and Tyler) are always thankful when visitors, family, or friends, are able to come and witness our work and lives. We are encouraged by their interest and all of your prayers and support of our work. Thank you and please continue.

Tyler

Classes and Groups

Advent Study Groups

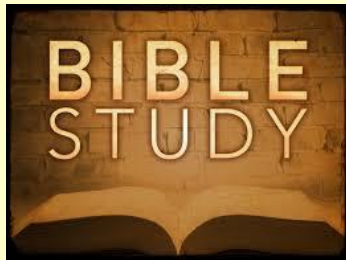
Who was Jesus? “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Everlasting Father,” or “Prince of Peace”?

Starting in November, we will be holding Advent Study Groups. These peer-led small groups will be discussing Walter Brueggemann’s Names For the Messiah, a short, accessible text written particularly for use as an Advent Study. If you are interested in participating in a group, please sign up by calling the office or when you come to the church for worship. The groups will meet once a week for four weeks. Join us!

Bible Study with the Pastor

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!

Adult Sunday School



Adult Bible Study (a.k.a. Adult Sunday School) will resume meeting on Sunday, November 5 at 8:15 a.m. in the Lounge. The past year has been spent exploring courses from the Israel Bible Center, an educational organization based in Israel and staffed by Jesus-believing Jews. We have discovered that a teacher who has a solid grounding in Hebrew and the Jewish historical background brings many “a-ha” moments of insight to us. Class concludes in time for choir members to get to morning rehearsal.

Signing (not Singing!) Choir

Sign Choir will resume weekly practice the first week of November. Practices are planned for Mondays at 4:00, but we can consider other times if enough are interested. New members are eagerly welcomed! New this fall: you may attend and participate in class without needing to sign “in public” at worship services. While our goal and purpose is to present sign interpretations of the chancel choir anthems, we understand this is not comfortable for some. We still want to introduce people to this beautiful language and being at class enables you to “see” the hymns and anthems in a different dimension.

Contact Carol Nussbaumer 970-586-2437 or carol@nussbaumers.net if you have any questions. We look forward to sharing sign language with 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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTClUT09>

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

The program topics for October are:

November 5 Revitalizing your Christianity by deconstructing dogma

November 12 Revitalizing your Christianity by deconstructing dogma

November 19 Eckhart Tolle: The Power of Now

November 26 No class



Journeys also hosts a once a month in-person gathering called Soul Stories. It takes place on the **second Thursday of the month** at 3 p.m. in the library. These gatherings consist of sharing of stories and casual conversation 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.

Sacred Encounters— PW Bible Study

Monday, November 20, 2023 – Twelve Noon



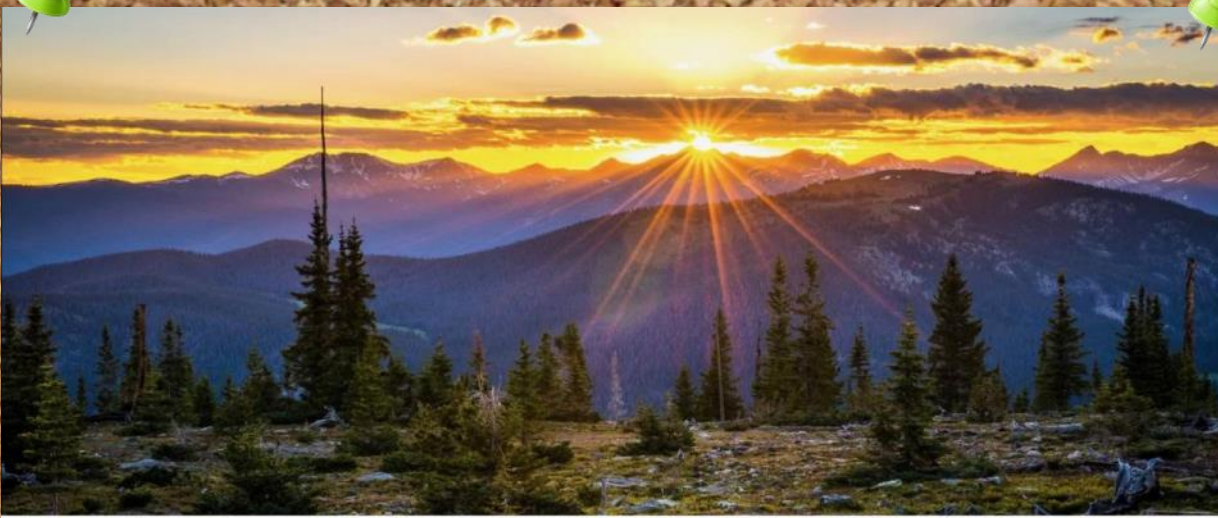
It was wonderful to have so many women attend the PW Bible study, *Sacred Encounters*, in October and we hope to see all of you again on Monday, November 20. Lisa Plaut will be leading the discussion on lesson three of the Bible study titled, "A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ." The main idea of the lesson is that Jesus calls us out of the shadows and claims us as his own, based on Luke 8:43-48. In Luke's story, the presence and power of Jesus prevails over the sense of impurity and shame imposed by society. 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. The meeting will also be available via Zoom. All women of the church are invited to participate in this study. We hope you can join us!

Turkey Talk: Memories of Thanksgivings Past

Wednesday, November 22: 2:30 pm

Good Sam Multi Room

Please join Pastor Christine and your fellow PCCR members for a discussion of how Thanksgivings in our past have shaped our lives. This event will be held at Good Samaritan Society Senior Apartments Multi Room. It is intended for PCCR members and those who are already connected to the PCCR community, but you do not need to be a Good Sam resident to attend. See you there!



THE SUN SETS ON ROCKY MTN NATIONAL PARK

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARVIN GEE

NOVEMBER 11TH, 2-4 PM, REMARKS AT 3 PM

ESTES VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

660 COMMUNITY DRIVE, ESTES PARK, 970-586-8191

Monday, Nov. 13 and Thursday, Nov. 23: Veterans Day (substitute) and Thanksgiving Day Church Closures

The church will honor veterans, as well as all who sacrificed for something larger than themselves, by closing the office on Monday, November 13.

We will also recognize the blessings that we have received in our lives by closing the office on Thanksgiving day, Thursday, November 23.

Bolt Bag Assembly Sunday, November 19

Please join members of your Mission Committee on **November 19**, immediately following worship, in the Fellowship Hall. We have 24 bags waiting to be “stuffed” with essential supplies. All supplies will be provided by the Mission committee.....we just need your help to assemble! The Bolt Bags will then be given through EVCA (Estes Valley Crisis Advocates) to their clients to assist them with a “new start”.

EVCA clients include survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, suicide, and other life traumas. This is a fun and interactive opportunity to learn more about the mission of EVCA. A staff member from EVCA will be on hand during Fellowship Hour to answer questions and provide information about the advocacy services.

Poinsettias for PCCR

Help us decorate the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas! Honor a person who has passed, or show someone how much you love and appreciate them.

Each poinsettia is \$20. It will brighten the Sanctuary during the Advent season, then is yours to keep after Christmas. Call the office or come to Worship to get an order form. Forms will be in bulletins starting November 12; the deadline to order is Monday, November 27.

From the Pastor's Desk

Nominations Needed!

We are looking for a few good members to serve on the Session, Deacon Board and Nominating Committee. Terms would run from 2024-2026. If you can think of anyone who could help to lead or guide the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies, please contact the office to get a Nomination Form. Thank you!

If You Are Unwell...

Dear Church Friends,

I love caring for you! But, in this day and age of HIPAA, I won't know if you are in the hospital unless you, a family member, or a friend tells me that you are there. So, please leave us a message at the church or call my cell phone, or send me a text!

Grace and peace,
Christine ♥

Prayer List

Starting November 1, we will be sending out a weekly prayer list via Constant Contact email. It will also be posted in the Narthex. Please let Christine know if you would like to have someone added to this list.

When Is Your Birthday?

Christine will begin calling or texting members during the week of their birthday. If we don't have your birthday, she won't be able to send you a birthday wish. We recently emailed all members whose birthday we do not have on file so please respond to this message if you received it. Contact the office if you aren't sure whether we have your birthday on file.

Session Highlights ~ October 2023

- ◆ Scheduled Pastor Christine’s installation for November 12 at 3:30 p.m. All members are invited to attend.
- ◆ Scheduled Kirkin’ of the Tartans for the November 12 worship service.
- ◆ Received four new members of PCCR: Mike Dempsey, Liam Dempsey, Jack Holmquist and Muriel deGanahl.
- ◆ Scheduled the following events:
 - Stewardship Sunday - November 26
 - Congregational meeting to elect church officers - December 17
 - Ordination and Installation of officers - January 7
 - Annual meeting of the congregation - February 4
 - Session and Deacons Retreat - February 28-29
- ◆ Received a report on current Memorial funds and discussed possible uses of these monies.
- ◆ Noted that the Mission and Outreach committee will be asking members to help with the assembly of Bolt Bags following worship on November 19. These bags are given to women and children who need to escape from a dangerous domestic situation.
- ◆ Heard from Mission and Outreach that letters from the missionaries that we help support, Chenoa Stock and Tyler Holm, can be found in the church newsletters. Letters from the Nussbaumers will also be printed in the newsletter.
- ◆ Approved including Indigenous People’s Day (formerly Columbus Day) as a holiday for PCCR staff.
- ◆ Received a report from Worship and Music committee that they will be re-instating the passing of the offering plates during worship.



Financial Information September 2023

| | September | Jan-Sep | Year to Date—Budget |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Total Revenues | \$16,745 | \$275,361 | \$271,223 |
| Total Expenses | \$45,839 | \$282,590 | \$347,498 |
| Net Total | -\$29,094 | -\$7,229 | -\$76,275 |

NOVEMBER



Dear God,
I'm writing about some concerns
I have as a Turkey. It seems
that in Your infinite wisdom, You
decided to make us fat, flightless,
and evidently delicious.
Thud wo caw caw caw. To make

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 8:30am-Worship: 'Kirkjuf' of the Tartans 11:00am-Harvest Festival - FH 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH | 6 9:00am-Worship and Music 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes* | 7 11:45am-AA Group* 12:30pm-PEO-L 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group* | 8 9:00am-Finance-L 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH | 9 8:30am-EPNRC Board* 11:45am-AA Group* 4:00pm-Chance Bells-FH 3:00pm-Journeys: Soul Work Group-L 6:30pm-Chance Choir-Music Rm | 10 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:30pm-Girl Scout Daisies* | 11 9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH |
| 12 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship: 'Kirkjuf' of the Tartans 11:00am-Harvest Festival - FH 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH | 13 VETERANS DAY (SUBSTITUTE) - OFFICE CLOSED 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 5:00pm-EVICS Family Focus Group* 6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes* | 14 10:00am-Building and Grounds-L 11:45am-AA Group* 1:00pm-Personnel-L 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers-L 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group* 7:00pm-Deacons-L | 15 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH | 16 10:00am-Staff Meeting 11:45am-AA Group* 3:00pm-Columbarium-L 4:00pm-Chance Bells-FH 5:00pm-EVICS Family Night* 6:30pm-Chance Choir-Music Rm | 17 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH | 18 9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH |
| 19 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Bolt Bag Assembly 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH | 20 11:30am-PW-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes* 6:30pm-Session-L | 21 Newsletter Deadline 11:45am-AA Group* 12:30pm-PEO-L 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group* | 22 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 2:30pm-Turkey Talk-Good Sam's 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH | 23 THANKSGIVING DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 11:45am-AA Group* 4:00pm-Chance Bells-FH 6:30pm-Chance Choir-Music Rm | 24 9:30am-Merry Marthas-FH 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH | 25 9:00am-1st United Church Retreat-FH |
| 26 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship: Stewardship Sunday 5:00pm-Oratorio-FH | 27 9:00am-Membership and Hospitality-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L | 28 11:45am-AA Group* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 6:45pm-EVICS Group* | 29 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm-Girl Scout Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH | 30 10:00am-Staff Meeting 11:45am-AA Group* 4:00pm-Chance Bells-FH 6:30pm-Chance Choir-Music Rm | | |

Note: Calendar events subject to change *Downstairs Room 6

It's The Harvest Festival

