

Volume 12, Number 4



# Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies

# **April 2024 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.





### **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 May Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, April 16. Please send your pictures and stories to:

office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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#### **Worship Schedule**

#### Worship in the Sanctuary:

April 7— 10:00 am, Communion

April 14 — 10:00 am April 21 — 10:00 am April 28 — 10:00 am

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor Larry Gillum, organist

### View through Livestream service on our website:

Open the website, <a href="https://pccrusa.org">https://pccrusa.org</a> on the Home page. The livestream player is to the right, below the opening pictures.

The player will automatically start when the service begins.

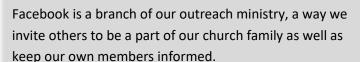
**Sunday Bulletin:** The current worship bulletin appears directly below the livestream and video recordings box. Simply click on "View Bulletin".

#### 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!





Check out our page (you don't need a Facebook account) for the most recent updates and articles. https://www.facebook.com/PCCR1

## **Website Suggestions**

Help us update our website!

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.



## April 2024

# Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Dear friends,

There is something about spring! Can you feel it? I think about the smell of our lilac tree, the first flowers appearing while there is still snow on the ground, the sighting of a spotted fawn, and the colors of a rainbow. Spring awakens us to the majesty and wonder of nature and takes us out of winter sadness. Spring also reminds us of the marvel of creation itself, this world we live in, and this planet that God calls us to care for.

This year, I want to introduce you to the PCUSA's ongoing commitment to be good stewards of our planet. While there are some theological traditions that claim our Christian purpose is to prepare for the next world, in our tradition we recognize the Kingdom of God brought in with the incarnation of Jesus and the call on our lives to serve this world



now. In other words, our theology is one that demands us to be good stewards of the earth, to care for all of God's creatures and to be mindful of our resources. Our denomination celebrates churches who have dedicated themselves to conservation practices, sustainability education and an earth care consciousness by designating them as earth care congregations. This badge not only recognizes what a church has done but also continues to motivate us to make decisions in our building and our mission to honor all of creation.

To introduce us to the Earth Care Congregation practices, we have put together a series of lectures this April and May that focus on all things nature (see inside). We have both professionals and enthusiasts, scientists and artists who will share their passion about aspects of the environment. I pray that you will come and support these speakers giving you a chance to meditate on how your love of nature intersects with your faith. Then, on Sundays, I will look at God's call on our lives to be stewards of the planet. The sermon topics that I will be covering will be: Celebrating God's Good Creation, Caring for the Earth, The Value of Life, Elements of Life, and A Beginning and An End.

I hope you are as excited as I am to explore God's call on our lives to care for "All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small." It is both exciting and humbling to think about the differences that we can make on the world by our actions. Understanding how the world is intertwined and how we as human beings impact the earth will help us better take care of not only the plants and the animals but also humanity as we all rely on fresh air, clean water, and nutritious food to survive. Let us remember that the "Good Lord made them all."

Grace and peace,
Christine

# **Good Friday**

The Good Friday service included meaningful narrations from several people about the lives of some of the disciples.

Right: Curtis Fox added to the service with his music talent.

Left: Carol Nussbaumer spoke for Peter's Mother in Law.







Left to right: Larry Pierce, Evelyn Wilson, and Mike Dempsey, portrayed, respectively, "The Leper," "Nahum's Daughter," and "Levi, The Son of Alphaeus."

# Easter Sunday

ext







# **PCCR Flower Arrangements for Lent**

The flower arrangements that brightened our church altar during the Lenten season come from an old PCCR tradition. When the notes from a dusty file in the PCCR office resurfaced a few years ago, Brenda Dixon created these arrangements, and this tradition was brought back to life. The descriptions are below.



Above, Left: The Word, the Light and Life

Above, Right: the twin vertical floral stems suggest hands uplifted in prayer.

Below, Left: the beauty of the rose amid the cruel thorns suggests the triumph of the Resurrection.

Below, Center: the holly represents passion, the Dutch iris represents sorrow, and the violets represent penitence.



Above, Right: the cross represents the Risen Lord, the pussy willows represent penitence, and the white flowers represent springtime. The Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies Presents...

# Creation Care

# A Series on Stewardship and Spirituality

One of the ways that we are called to action as Christians is to care for our environment. Caring for our environment means not only taking steps to use our resources wisely but also to learn about the world around us. The more we learn about nature, how we rely on it for our sustainability and how we both impact and are impacted by it, the more we can understand our role in protecting it. In response to this mission focus of our denomination, the PCUSA, we are dedicating five weekends to creation care. On Saturday mornings at 10:00, we will feature environmental experts and enthusiasts to share their knowledge and experience about all matters concerning the environment, and on Sunday mornings at worship, we will look specifically on how caring for creation can make a difference in our call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and help the suffering. These talks are open to the community. Please join us for a learning hour, question and answer, and fellowship. All sessions will be at the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies, 1700 Brodie Ave.

Saturday, April 6, 10:00 am:

Scott Rashid, "Small Mountain Owls"



Saturday, April 13, 10:00 am:

Meredith Ishida, "The Poetry of Wild Sacred Spaces"

Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am:

Robert Hancock, "Bugology 101: Why Insects Matter"



Saturday, April 27, 10:00 am:

Kent Dannen, "Developing A Meditation Trail

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 am:

Pat Waltermire, "How Should Humans and Plants Interact?"

# **Funeral Planning**

# Witness to the Resurrection

This is part 3 of my series on remembering well and planning a funeral.

One of the challenges that people have when planning a service is what to call it. Funeral? Celebration of Life? There are many choices, but in our Presbyterian tradition, we like to call this service a "Witness to the Resurrection." This name reflects our trust in everlasting life and our identity as people of hope. In this service, we are celebrating a life well-lived, but we are also reminded that we are reclaimed by God. In other words, our focus will not be so much on our loss but rather on the promise of God. It is a very hopeful way to both honor our grief and give thanks for life on earth.

When I prepare a service that is a Witness to the Resurrection, I strive to put the person's life into the context of our creation. I therefore always have a meditation based both on scripture and the stories of the individual, weaving their life into God's world, reminding us of the beauty of life. If you are planning a funeral, it can be nice to have one or two speakers who knew the person well, to share a personal anecdote or a heartful memory. It is also helpful to have any beloved hymns of the faith identified, so that we can incorporate them into the service. I, personally, think that it is also nice to have people sing together or say the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm together. It helps people grieve when they can be active participants in the service.

Sometimes people ask me, what are the rules? What are the expectations? This is really up to you, and either I or the funeral home can help you craft a service that is meaningful. I do recommend that you choose a service that will honor and reflect the life of your loved one. In our faith, we send our loved ones out with the traditional words and practices of the faith—those words that have sustained us through our lives. While our loved ones are no longer present with us, a traditional service reminds us of their life on earth and it recognizes their faith tradition. However, I am happy to incorporate other faith practices within the context of the traditional service if it is supportive to your family. My hope is that you can celebrate the life of your loved one, live into the hope of Christ, and cherish the experience of remembering well.

The Reverend Dr. Christine Dempsey

To My Dear PCCR Family,

Thank you so much for honoring my 25 years on staff at this church as Handbell Director (a.k.a. Head Ding-a-Ling). I could never have imagined doing this when we moved here and certainly not for so many years! This ministry has been such a blessing to me. Your generous monetary gifts are much appreciated, and all your well wishes mean the world to me.

With much gratitude and love,



From Kelley Anderson: Hey, look who we found in Palm Desert, California! PCCR West!



# **News from Malawi**

The small country of Malawi, Africa, has again been hit with destructive weather. Between February 28 and March 1, the area of Dwangwa (near the shores of Lake Malawi) had non-stop heavy downpours lasting almost 72 hours. 4 rivers in the area were in flood and at least 6,375 households were destroyed. Also destroyed were crops of corn, rice, cassava and sugar cane, which people rely on for their food supply. The main road to Dwangwa was cut off with bridges destroyed at both ends. At least 8 people were killed, and the search is on for others lost. A one-year-old child was found "almost in water without parents". One of Marion Medical Mission's wells' supervisors, Laston Mnthali, lost his grandchild when his house collapsed with the child inside.

Marion Medical Mission (MMM) has more than 1600 protected water facilities in the area and is appealing to well-wishers for funds to purchase food, blankets, plastic sheets (for roof on shelters) and plastic pails (to draw water). They are trying to assist at least 500 households with a total estimated cost of \$41,786, according to a budget compiled by Mr. Francis Mwanjikho, MMM Field Officer, Dwangwa. For more information contact Jim or Carol

Nussbaumer.



# Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering

"So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones" - Genesis 50:21

April 14, 2024



Since 1922, Presbyterian Women have been contributing annually to the Birthday Offering. Over the past century the offering has funded more than 200 major projects that continue to provide medical care, education, shelter, food and support for people most in need both at home and abroad. In 1922 women were encouraged to donate a penny for every year of their life as a love offering. Due to inflation, that penny is now equal to eighteen cents. Any amount contributed will be appreciated and will provide aid to the two projects selected for the offering this year.

Café Gingko – Shawnee Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Located in an economically disadvantaged area where single mothers and children face challenges of food insecurity, the church began serving free dine-in meals in 2019. The program was stopped in 2020 due to the pandemic, but with the Birthday grant, Café Gingko will reopen with a renovated kitchen and expanded capacity to provide meals and services. These improvements will allow the church to offer enriching activities such as tutoring for elementary ages, financial literacy classes and parenting workshops.

**Bethel Hills Apartments and Recreation Area** – Marthasville, Missouri. Affordable and appropriate housing is difficult for many adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. They struggle to make

friends and thrive in the wider community. Bethel Hills addresses the unique needs of these individuals by providing a safe and loving place that takes into consideration their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. The villa will provide accessible apartments as well as space for art and music therapy and other leisure activities for people with these disabilities. Bethel Hills will provide a supportive, faith-based, inclusive community where all are accepted and valued.

Please consider supporting the Birthday offering so organizations like the ones selected will be able to continue to offer love, reassurance, kindness and provide for "little ones" (Genesis 50:21). You will find yellow donation envelopes in the pews or you can make a donation by going to the donation page on the PCCR website. Presbyterian Women are truly grateful for you support.





# One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Committee

The Mission Committee wants to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the members and friends of the PCCR congregation for their generous support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that was received on Palm

Sunday, March 24. Your gifts have given help and hope to people in the United States and around the world, who will be receiving funds, care and education through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People Program. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. If you have not already donated to this important ministry, you still can by writing a check or donating online through our PCCR Donate page. Thank you for working to "Repair the Breach" (Isaiah 58).

# **Gratitude From Our Mission Co-Workers**

The Mission & Outreach Committee is charged with the responsibility to faithfully distribute gifts from the congregation to many mission-based organizations. These gifts come from tithes and offerings according to the Church budget as well as some individual gifts designated for a particular use. We often receive thank-you notes from the recipients, which we are beginning to share with you in the Newsletter. The thanks really go to you, the members who support this committee and its work!

From Mission Co-Worker Chenoa Stock and family

"Merry Christmas, Community Church of the Rockies! Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry with our Peruvian partners. I look forward to growing our partnership in 2024!"

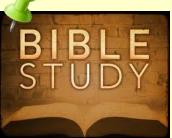
God's Peace, Jose, Chenoa, Leandro and Paulo



# **Groups and Events**

# Bible Study With the Pastor—Wednesdays at Noon

Please join Pastor Christine and friends for our continued study of the Book of Mark! "God is Doing Stuff!"



# **Adult Bible Study**

Beginning on April 7, the Adult Bible Study group will begin a new course from the Israel Bible Center titled "Stories of the Jewish Church: Acts 1-5". Taught by Professor Pinchas Shir, the course looks at how the early Christbelievers understood their own faith. The focus of the first 5 chapters is on the disciples, emboldened by the Holy Spirit as they proclaimed their Messiah

in the Temple daily.

Class meets each Sunday at 8:15 am in the Lounge. We finish by 9 am so bell ringers and choir members can go to rehearsals and everyone else can have some coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!



# You Belong Here! New Member Discussion - Sunday, April 28

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. You are welcome to join us if you are a full time resident or an occasional visitor.

Our next New Member gathering will be on **April 28**<sup>th</sup> **after worship** with 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!



Financial Information March 2024											
	March	January-March	Year to Date—Budget								
Total Revenues	\$22,218	\$83,723	\$98,495								
Total Expenses	\$49,541	\$114,407	\$118,240								
Net Total	-\$27,323	-\$30,684	-\$19,745								



Journeys is an ecumenical group of faith-traveling partners who come together to facilitate each person's spiritual growth. Spiritual growth is viewed as: a process, not a product; a journey, not a destination; intentional, transformational and relational; and a life-long quest. All are welcome.



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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTCtlUT09

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

The program schedule for April is:

April 7 Digging Deeper into How Death can Lead to Rebirth

April 14 The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard: What is fair?

April 21 Practices to Awaken Generosity, Creativity and Kindness

April 28 How to Know a Person, the art of seeing others deeply and being seen.

Journeys also hosts a once a month in-person gathering called Soulful 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.



# PW Bible Study – April 15, 2024 Sacred Encounters – Lesson Eight

We would love to have you join us for our next Presbyterian Women's Bible lesson on Monday, April 15 in the church library. We begin gathering at 11:30 a.m. and the Bible study and discussion

starts at 12 noon. This month Mary Zollman will lead us as we study lesson 8, titled "Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship." In the lesson, based on Acts 16:11-15, we learn how Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, listened to Paul's teaching and was baptized, along with her household. If you cannot attend in person, we encourage you to join us on Zoom. Contact Renee Warren or Karen Daugherty for more information.

#### PCCR family,

Over 80 people enjoyed the fellowship and delicious food at our annual Palm Sunday brunch on March 24. Thank you to all who participated!

Blessings, The Hospitality Committee

### Session Highlights ~ March 2024

- Received a report from Deacon Chuck Bonza regarding the "Comfort and Coffee" groups that are being formed. "In Touch" groups for the entire membership are also in the works. These groups will provide a connection with members on a regular basis.
- Noted that Holy Week plans include a Maundy Thursday Communion by intinction service, and a Good Friday service, followed by the Easter Service on Sunday.
- Scheduled the meeting with PCCR financial planners to conduct the annual review of the church monetary matters.
- Approved Carol Rood as a new member of the Hospitality committee.
- Approved the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.
- Received the resignation of Office Coordinator Meredith Ishida. She will continue to work from home and assist with the transition to a new Coordinator.
- Approved changes to the job description for Office Coordinator.
- Heard plans from Building and Grounds for upgrading security in the building, as well as plans to remove the playground equipment which is a possible liability for the church.
- Approved a plan to remove the old organ in the chapel and some older chairs.
- Discussed the matter of allowing animals, other than those trained as service animals, to be in the church.

#### Dear PCCR Community,

When I hiked the Pacific Crest Trail in 2011, one of the insights that came to me was this: you must plan, but remember that your plans will change, change again, and then completely be thrown out and created anew. Sometimes it will be circumstances that warrant a revision of plans - for instance, weather or trail conditions. Sometimes it will be other people who cause you to change course - you increase your pace up to hike with someone, or take a detour to avoid another. And sometimes, it is you yourself who alters the plans. For in the course of the journey you will surely be changed, possibly even by the trail itself - you will become wiser and see that your plan was not prudent, or you become injured and need to take an unexpected day off. Such is life. We make plans, to the best of our ability, even knowing that our plans will likely change, due to circumstances, or other people, or our own development as a human being.

Throughout my pregnancy, I envisioned that after River was born, her father would move to Estes Park and be able to assist with childcare when I was working. That vision did not become a reality and so, graciously, the PCCR staff allowed me to bring River to work - a fine reroute! However, the time has now come for us to take a different trail, one that does not include sitting at the Office Administrator desk at the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. I am deeply saddened by having to relinquish this position, for I love my job! I love the work itself - compiling newsletters and bulletins, answering phones and greeting visitors. I love being able to make a contribution to the world by supporting spiritual growth and community. Most of all, I love the people. I have been in the privileged position to witness so many acts of kindness and beauty among the staff, congregation, and community members and I have truly fallen in love with the people of PCCR.

Fortunately, some of that will remain, even as I leave my current role. I hope to keep many of you close, if that is what you would also like. The friendships will remain, certainly. The roles - of grandmother or grandfather, mentor or teacher that you have played in my daughters' lives will hopefully also continue. And I can commit also to continuing to participate in and give to the PCCR community, as much as I possibly can and as much as it is desired.

Although this news likely is a bit of a shock and disappointment, let me frame it this way: you have nurtured my little "baby bird" in the warm and safe nest of the PCCR Office for the past year and a half (including the months before she "hatched!"). She has learned to love and be loved by so many people. Now it is time for her to stretch her wings and fly. However, it has been revealed that the Office is not the right place for flying. And because I have made the decision to fly with her, it is time to let us go. We love you, we are most grateful, and we will not forget.





Saturday	9	10:00am-Creation Care: Small Mountain Owls by Scott Rashid-L	13	9:30am-Card- Making Group-FH 10:00am-Creation Care: Poetry of Wild Sacred Spaces by Meredith Ishida-L	20	10:00am-Creation Care: Why Insects Matter by Robert Hancock - L	27	10:00am-Creation Care: Creating a Meditation Trail by Kent Dannen - L		
Friday	5	3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:30pm-GS Daisies*	12	3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:30pm-GS Daisies*	19	3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH	26	3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 9:30am-Merry Marthas-FH 3:30pm-GS Daisies* 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-S, Music Rm		
Thursday	4	11:45am-AA Group* 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm-EVICS* 6:30pm-Chancel Choir- Music Rm	11	8:30am-EPNRC Board* 11:45am-AA Group* 1:00pm-Foundation-L 3:00pm-Journeys: Soul Work Group-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm-EVICS* 6:00pm-Girl Scouts-L 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-	18	11:45am-AA Group* 3:00pm-Columbarium-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm-EVICS * 6:30pm-Chancel Choir- Music Rm	25	11:45am-AA Group* 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir- Music Rm		
Wednesday	3	12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm- Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 5:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	10	10:30am-Mission and Outreach-L 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 1:00pm-Good Grief Group-L 3:00pm- Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 5:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	17	12:00pm-Bible Study-L 3:00pm- Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 5:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	24	12:00pm-Bible Study-L 1:00pm-Grief Group-L 3:00pm- Brownies* 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 5:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH		
Tuesday	2	11:45am-AA Group* 12:30pm-PEO AV-L 6:30pm-Chamber Singers- Music Room 6:45pm-Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	6	10:00am-Building & Grounds-L 11:45am-AA Group* 1:00pm-Personnel-L 3:00pm-Worship and Music-Lge, 4:00pm-Ch-Singers-FH 6:00pm-Ch-Singers-FH 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Room 6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	16	Newsletter Deadline 11:45am-AA Group* 12:30pm-PEO-L 4:00pm-Stephen Ministers-L 6:00pm-Ch.Singers-FH 6:30pm-Chamber Singers- Music Room 6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	23	11.45am-AA Group* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers- Music Room 6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	30	11:45am-AA Group* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers- Music Room 6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*
Monday	1	11:00am-Worship and Music-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes*	8	9:00am-Finance-L 1:00pm-Membership-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH	15	11:30am-PW-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes* 6:30pm-Session-L	22		29	9:00am-Hospitality-L 3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH
Sunday			7	8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship	14	8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 5:00pm-Oratorio Society-FH	21	8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 5:00pm-Oratorio Society-FH	28	8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 5:00pm-Oratorio Society-FH

