



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

May 2024 Newsletter

Estes Park's historic mainline Protestant congregation founded in 1907.

Mission Statement: Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies is a welcoming community united by faith in Jesus Christ; we seek to serve others, share God's love, and engage all people.

Volume 12, Number 5





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 June Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, May 21. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

May 5 — 10:00 am, Communion

May 12 — 10:00 am

May 19 — 10:00 am

May 26 — 10:00 am

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>



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.

May 2024

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Dear friends,

I know that you all know the quote “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” It implies that a pretty cover doesn’t necessarily represent a good story or vice-versa that a beat up, unsightly cover has a poor message. While I think most of us know better, it still raises a bigger question about how to find good books. How do we find Christian literature that reflects a robust theology centered on God’s love? How do we choose books in the religion genre that will help us live out our faith, provide inspiration, and guide us in spiritual growth? The answer, it’s hard. There are a lot of pretty covers that lack quality content. We can actually read religious books that lead us not into God’s loving presence but away from it.

The reason that I am addressing this today is that I have had several members ask me about this author or that author, and sometimes the theology within is not helpful. In other words, some of these books have a theological focus that contradicts what we believe about God. This is not a criticism of literature that is not “Presbyterian” nor does it condemn all the words by individuals who are writing from a different theological lens. In fact, there are many beautiful quotes that I can pull from these writers. The problem is that the underpinnings of the writings, the foundational beliefs of these writers, impact the final result. So, for example, if an author’s fundamental orientation to the world is a dualism of good against evil, then the writing will ultimately reflect a world view of this cosmic battle. Likely, the reader will be drawn in to looking for the bad and finding themselves judging others. On the other hand, if the writer trusts in an all-loving God and the creator of the good earth, then the reader begins to look for where good things are happening in the midst of the trials of life. It leaves us with hope.

Still, how do I know? How do I find the books that give me this hope? First, look for theological clues: Does the writer embrace God’s love? Are forgiveness and hope at the center? Do you receive guidance that brings you peace, or do you find that you are becoming angry? Do you find that the writing allows you to accept yourself and grow into God’s call on your life, or does it stifle you and destroy your being? Second, look at the authors of the text – what is their background? Are they educated? Where? Do they understand the historical and critical analyses in reading scripture? Do they understand what it means to be in a tradition with a living God? Do they practice in a faith tradition that espouses love for all people? Remember the benediction that I use frequently: “Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold fast to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord your God rejoicing in the Holy Spirit.” This is a good litmus test for your reading. Do your book selections meet up with this? Third, listen on Sunday morning. Does what you are reading align with the message you receive at church? If not, let’s have a conversation to evaluate the text you are reading.

Friends, faith is a journey, and we are encouraged to grapple with and ask questions about what we believe. However, if your spiritual life is unhealthy, if you are reading “spiritual junkfood,” you may find yourself canoeing uphill and running away from God’s call on your life. When we read writers who embrace God’s love and grace, we can listen for how God is working in our lives, and we find ourselves living into the person God created us to be. So, friends, go out into the world in peace.... Amen.

Grace and peace,

Christine <3



Kitchen Clean 2024: A True Treasure Hunt



Above: Kathy Osborne uses her height and agility to reach the highest corners.

Below: Kelley Anderson laments the state of the kitchen while Anne Jacobs stands by, ready for action.



Above: Kitchen warriors Kathy Osborne, Deborah Webb, Amy Fox, Kelley Anderson, Anne Jacobs, and Diane Palmer.

Right: Deborah Webb and Diane Palmer make a great team!



Thank you to all who assisted in this project, and all who work on an ongoing basis to keep the kitchen neat and tidy!

PCCR East Driveway Paving

The East Driveway (Fish Creek Road side) of PCCR will be paved starting around the second week of May, and will likely not be finished for several weeks. Please use the west driveway during this time. There will be signs and barriers up as a reminder. Thank you and apologies for the inconvenience!

A New Mission Statement for PCCR

The Session and the Deacons of PCCR worked together to create a new mission statement that would accurately reflect the true purpose and meaning of our church. The wording was thoughtfully considered, refined, and voted on by members of the Session. It will now read as follows:

Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies is a welcoming community united by faith in Jesus Christ; we seek to serve others, share God's love, and engage all people.

Revised Funeral Policies

All PCCR Committees have been asked to review and, as appropriate, revise the policies that they govern. The Worship and Music Committee has revised the Funeral Policies and Session has approved the changes. If you would like a copy of the revised policies, including a schedule of fees, please contact the PCCR Office.

Witness to the Resurrection: Sharing plans with family

This is part 4 of my series on remembering well and planning a funeral.

In the past three newsletters, I have provided some encouragement for not only holding but planning a remembrance service. But, our end of life needs go beyond the service to the very core of our theological beliefs. Most of us, however, never have this discussion with our loved ones. How many of you know if your loved one is an organ donor? How many know if your loved one would like to be kept alive on life-support? How many of you are prepared for end-of-life hospice care? For type of burial?

These are hard questions and they represent both the wishes of the dying and the wishes of the living. So often, I will talk with someone who says that my loved one did not want a service, so we are doing nothing as a family. That may honor the loved one but really restricts the needs of the family to remember their loved one well. Sometimes the living will superimpose their religious traditions on their deceased loved one only to provide a service that is inauthentic to the person and their spiritual space. It leaves a sense of spiritual emptiness. The good news is that in the end, it will all be OK, and God will embrace both the person that passed and those grieving. Still, what about a remembrance that honors the dead and supports the living?

I recommend that you have this conversation with your family, me, or a funeral director. Make the experience of leaving this world as important as entering this world. Whether we like it or not, our journey home is one of the biggest moments in our lives. So, let's not ignore it or pretend it won't happen but plan for it in a way that celebrates a life well-lived. What a gift to give to your family! What a gift to give to your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Grace and peace,

Christine <3

A Letter from Tyler Holm, serving in Malawi

Dear friends,

During these past North American summer months, I (Tyler) was in the United States speaking with congregations and individuals. I am grateful for the time I spent together with those of you with whom I was able to connect in person, and at the same time, I am sorry that this short visit did not allow some time together with others of you.

It is interesting to note some of the changes in the way churches and individuals in the U.S. relate to their mission co-workers now as compared to the way they related to them in the past and I think you may see some changes in your own congregations as well. Before 2020, before we all became too accustomed to Zoom and alternate ways to worship and conduct church business, I would occasionally make videos or video calls to churches. When we were adapting to live and asynchronous remote connections many thought this would be a temporary adjustment and longed to get together in person. Several congregations that I have visited in prior years, however, have become very comfortable with this technology and when we started to plan how we could connect this year they indicated they believed that the expense of bringing us together was not justifiable. I am curious to hear how others are feeling connected to their mission co-workers as we are entering the phase of living with COVID-19 as a lasting presence. In what ways do we successfully connect? Where are the challenges and how do we balance these now? Are more regular updates from the field while in Mzuzu better? Do less frequent trips like my mid-2023 trip help foster greater connection?

Physically meeting with folks dominated these past months and I participated in 40 different meetings. These are important times when I am able to share with different constituents. I hope this generates excitement which leads to financially supporting my ministry and the work of the University of Livingstonia Faculty of Theology, which is addressing the critical need for trained pastors and lay leaders in the church in Malawi. The church is sometimes susceptible to questionable teachings when they lack trained leaders. There are about 7,000 members of the Church of Central Africa (CCAP) Synod of Livingstonia for every ordained pastor. Most pastors are responsible not just for one congregation, but for a large geographical area where the central 'mother' congregation up to a dozen 'daughter' congregations known as prayer houses which do not have any formally trained leadership. Despite this challenge, the church is growing numerically, in part due to population growth, but the desire for skilled preaching, theological understanding, and moral leadership is lifted up by lay people and leaders of the CCAP. These meetings, like my visit to the U.S. this year, are addressing far more than financial support. Visiting U.S. congregations can lead to learning about Malawi and the challenges CCAP faces as well as enabling U.S. congregations to become prayer and advocacy partners. These visits are also important to keep mission co-workers informed of the concerns and changing situation in the church and society in the U.S. and to encourage mission co-workers in their ministry.



Tyler and Mphatso with Rev. AOLSP Chisiza, one of Tyler's first students who recently filled the pulpit at their home church.



One of the volunteers cooking a group meal for the congregation from donated supplies.

The CCAP church in Malawi is active in living out the mission of the U.S. church as well. On our first Sunday back in Malawi, the congregation we attend in Muzuzu gave an update on the church's finances from the prior month. Much is similar to what we might hear in North America, folks give according to their ability to support different ministries of the church and synod. One interesting difference is that the church welcomes cash, crops from the field and materials from businesses. Members often bring in huge bags of corn or live chickens as their offerings at our local Mzuzu church. The chickens are a noisy reminder that just as God has entrusted us with different blessings and resources, the work and ministry of the church is also varied, but we are all called to participate. We thank all those who support my ministry and the work of the CCAP Faculty of Theology in Malawi and Presbyterian World Mission.

Tyler

Mission Committee Thank You – OGHS

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. As of mid-April, we have received \$2033 to support the three programs included in this special offering: the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and the Self-Development of People. Your donations, joined with others from around the world, will help restore hope, empower the oppressed and feed the hungry. You are truly “Repairers of the Breach” making a positive difference in the lives of people in the United States and around the world.

Thank You from EVRJP

The Mission & Outreach Committee is pleased to share with the congregation this thank you received from Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership, one of our local supported groups:

“Thank you for your donation in support of EVRJP and restorative processes that sustain peaceable resolutions! It was a pleasure to speak with PCCR’s congregation and to know that we have a community of supporters willing to invest in practices that build and support community. Your contribution helps move people on their journey toward resolution, healing and deeper, more meaningful connection with one another.

In gratitude, *Denise and the EVRJP Team*”

Continued Contributions to Migrant Assistance in Denver

In 2023, Denver received over 30,000 migrants from Central and South America. Most came here from Venezuela. They are fleeing from dangerous conditions in their home countries and seek asylum and employment here.

Denver, on a per capita basis, has absorbed more migrants than other inland cities. In 2023, the city of Denver spent over \$35 million in caring for this surge. The needs of the migrants, who come here with nothing, have been overwhelming. For example, last year Denver Health, a nonprofit hospital that serves the public regardless of the ability to pay, reported that it treated 8,000 migrants who made 20,000 visits.

The Mission and Outreach Committee has looked for a way to help. We donated \$1,000 in each of the past two years to support the work of Lutheran Family Services. We chose this agency because they have been in existence for a long time and have credibility in helping migrants. Lutheran Family Services is a faith based, nonprofit human services agency established in 1949 with the objective of resettling migrants from World War II into the United States. The organization has an active presence in assisting migrants coming to Denver. We recently donated another \$1,000. The money comes from pledges made by the congregation and thus comes from all of us.

PW Birthday Offering Thank You

Presbyterian Women would like to thank the congregation for their loving support of the Birthday Offering, which was dedicated on April 14. So many of you generously celebrated your birthday years by providing financial support to Café Gingko, which provides meals and services to women and children who are food insecure in Louisville, Kentucky, and Bethel Hills Apartments in Marthasville, Missouri, which provides appropriate housing to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your caring donations provide for not only the physical needs of the disadvantaged but also provide hope for a better life. Presbyterian Women are truly grateful for your support.

Pentecost Special Offering

Pentecost occurred on the festival of the spring wheat. Jerusalem streets were filled with devout Jews from all nations who had gathered there for the annual event. The twelve and other followers, including Mary the mother of Jesus, were also in Jerusalem (Acts 1:14) when from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind (Acts 2:2), divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them (Acts 2:3), and they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). The crowd heard the disciples speaking in many languages and wondered whether they were intoxicated. This was when Peter addressed the crowd. It led to the conversion of some 3,000 and signified the birth of the Church. Pentecost thus reminds us of the importance of the Great Commission, when Jesus said to the disciples, as reported by Matthew, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Pentecost Special Offering focuses on building faith in youth, continuing the theme of birth of the church and making disciples of all nations. Our congregation retains 40% of the contributions for use in programs that benefit children at risk. We will pass this on to Estes Park Learning Place as a premier local organization that makes a true difference in the life of young people in the Estes Valley. The remaining 60% supports the denomination's programs for child advocacy, youth ministry, and young adult volunteer opportunities.

The Pentecost Special Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support and inspire young people. Contributions can be made at worship services and through the donate button on the church website. Envelopes are in the pews, and there is a button under special offerings on the website donate page to designate the contribution for the Pentecost Special Offering.

*Stained glass window from the
Cathedral of Toledo, Spain*



Estes Park Learning Place

Our Mission: Believing that education unlocks dreams, we support students of all ages
– inspiring a lifelong love of learning.

Founded in 1998 as an innovative skill-building center for learners of all ages, the Estes Park Learning Place became a charitable non-profit organization in February 2002 and serves the greater Estes Valley community.

The Learning Place provides tutoring for Kindergarten through High School in reading, math, science and other subject areas; GED coaching/tutoring and testing; SAT/ACT preparation, career development support; proctor tests from different colleges & universities and more, for youth and adults in the Estes Valley. Our students include youth who are homeschooled and those attending the Estes Park Schools. In 2023 we tutored over 200 youth. The Learning Place has provided assistance for youth and adults with learning disabilities as well.

A need-based financial assistance program is an integral part of the Learning Place's ability to effectively serve the community. The goal of this program is to never let someone's financial situation keep him/her from reaching his/her full potential. We provide a 50% discount to students who meet more than once a week with a tutor and to additional children in a family.

The tutors who work at the Estes Park Learning Place are highly skilled, energetic, committed and passionate about learning. Because each of the tutors possesses credentials that include advanced degrees, they are paid by the Estes Park Learning Place to work with students. Individual plans are developed for each student to set goals, assess progress, and then set new goals. This results in the tutor committing significantly more time for each session than the hour spent with a student. The tutors motivate and support students as they learn at their own pace.

The Estes Park Learning Place also offers other programs including the Family Cafe Program where families come together for intergenerational learning activities around a topic over dinner. We have explored Habitations, Owls, Mountains, Famous People, Famous Places, Native Peoples, Earth Day and many other topics. We have also started the Turtle's Back Workshops with the first being "The Art of Puppetry" for 3rd-5th graders, which include learning to research, write a script and will culminate in a performance for their families. A Cursive Writing workshop will take place this summer. Our Home Libraries Program provides books for students and their siblings to take home and keep as a way to encourage reading at home. A new program in collaboration with other nonprofits in the community is our Citizenship class, to prepare community members for becoming US Citizens.

There are opportunities for church members to volunteer such as serving on our Board of Directors (Chuck Bonza is a former Board member); helping with Family Cafe nights; assisting in teaching our Citizenship class; and sorting books for our Home Libraries program. Feel free to stop by and take a tour of our classrooms.

Visit our website to learn more or contact Sue Yowell, Executive Director at 970-577-0020 or sueyowell@eplearningplace.org.



Creation Care

at the Community Church of the Rockies

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. Saturday mornings in April at PCCR were dedicated to learning more about the world around us. Scott Rashid, researcher and bird rehabilitator, taught us about “Small Mountain Owls,” inspiring many to stay aware and watch for signs of owls all around us. The second Saturday, long distance hiker Meredith Ishida presented on “The Poetry of Wild Sacred



Spaces,” asking participants to consider where and how they have experienced the divine in nature. The following week, professor of Entomology Dr. Robert Hancock lectured on mosquitoes and other insects. We will hopefully have a little more curiosity rather than mere annoyance next time we get bitten!

Coming up is Pat Waltermire’s presentation on May 4; she helps us to contemplate, “How Should People and Plants Interact?” Rev. Kent Dannen’s talk was rescheduled for May 18 due to a heavy, wet snow at the end of April. We look forward to hearing from him about his experience and research on “Developing a Meditation Trail,” a timely subject as we look forward to re-vamping the PCCR trail.

Honoring Stephen Ministers

Despite the remnants of a large snowstorm, on April 28 we were able to honor a few of the quiet heroes of our congregation. Over the past 40 years, these caring listeners have supported many of us during our times of need. Thank you to all who have served in this way.

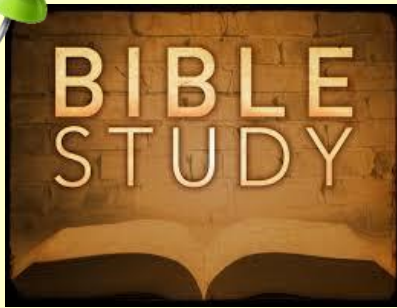
Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide confidential, one-to-one care. If you or someone you know could benefit from having a Stephen Minister walk with you through grief, illness, divorce, or other difficulties, please contact the PCCR Office.



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 Group - Sundays at 8:15 am

We are continuing our in-depth study of Scriptures using presentations from the Israel Bible Center. Beginning April 14 the study will be on the first 5 chapters of the book of Acts. We will look at the earliest activities of what was then, of course, an all-Jewish movement and later will see how it changed as others – non-Jews – began to accept Jesus as the Christ.

Class meets Sunday mornings at 8:15, finishing in time for bell ringers and choir members to go to rehearsal and the rest to have a cup of coffee and conversation before worship. Class is open to all!

There will be no class on May 19th.

PW Bible Study and Salad Luncheon

May 20, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.

Sacred Encounters – Lesson Nine

Let's join together in the church library to celebrate another year of fellowship and Bible study. On Monday, May 20, at 11:30, we will enjoy a salad potluck luncheon before discussing the final lesson for the Bible study titled, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. The meal will start at 11:30, with the Bible study, led by Bonnie Vanderveen, starting shortly after 12 noon. Lesson nine, titled "People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples," will focus on how the community of faith relies on the power of Jesus Christ in times of crisis. Based on Acts 9:36-43, we will meet Tabitha who is the only woman in the New Testament to be designated as a disciple. We look forward to seeing you on May 20, for our final meeting before we break for the summer.



You Belong Here!

New Member Discussion - Sunday, May 5

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 **May 5th 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!

Journeys - Sundays at 8:30 am

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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1ICVmtENnUxTctlUT09>

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

The program schedule for May is:

May 5	What is Nondual Love? Rev. Ian Cummins
May 12	Experiencing Nondual Love and Connecting with God. Rev. Ian Cummins.
May 19	Soul Work based on the Ideas of New Thought Theologian, Gary Zukav
May 26	No Class

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.

Creation Care—May 4 & May 18 at 10 am

There are two more sessions of the Creation Care Series left. On May 4, Pat Waltermire will present on "How Should Humans and Plants Interact?" Kent Dannen's talk on "Developing a Meditation Trail" has been rescheduled for May 18 at 10 am. Please join us and bring a friend!

Chamber Singers Spring Concert

"Let My Love Be Heard"

Sunday, May 5 at 2 pm

The Chamber Singers will be performing at PCCR on Sunday, May 5th at 2 pm. All are welcome to this concert by some of Estes Park's most talented singers, including several PCCR Members!

Oratorio Society Spring Concert

Friday, May 10 at 7 pm

The Oratorio Society will be performing at PCCR on Friday, May 10th at 7 pm. This will include both Orchestra and Chorus!

Office Administrator Reception—Sunday, May 19

Please join us as we honor Meredith Ishida on Sunday, May 19 at a reception after church in the fellowship hall.

Meredith has done a great job serving as our church office administrator since October 2022. We will miss her. Cards and well wishes for Meredith and her family are welcomed and appreciated.

Spring Clean-up Day—Saturday, June 8

It's time to get ready for summer! We will have our Annual Spring Clean-up Day on Saturday, June 8th at 8:30 until about noon. We need your help to keep the grounds and parking lot looking good and keep them safe. We will be raking and collecting the pinecones and pine needles all around the church for fire prevention as well as better appearance. We will also be sweeping up and collecting the gravel on the parking lot from winter snow traction spreading. There is also always trash to be picked up – especially down over the hill towards the outdoor chapel and meditation trail. Please bring your heavy brooms, rakes, scoop shovels and even wheelbarrows. The church has all of these in limited quantities, but more can be helpful. If you have a pickup and are willing to haul debris to the transfer station, that would also be very helpful. We will have donuts to fuel the body while you work. Contact Jim Nussbaumer or the PCCR Office with any questions.

Recruiting All Listeners

PCCR and the Stephen Ministers will be offering a training to strengthen one's knowledge regarding The Art of Listening, Boundaries, Confidentiality, and Initial Visits.

Keep one of these dates open: **Sunday June 9th** after worship (11:15 AM) or **Wednesday June 19th** at 2:00PM. Both will be in the church library.

Community Church Connections, a newly formed group of dedicated care givers, would like your help. Our congregation has an ever-varying number of members that just need to know someone cares. These one-on-one personal visits would be assigned through the church office. Long-term commitments are not necessary. Summer residents are also encouraged to participate.

Orientation will take place on the above dates and should last no longer than 90 minutes.



Memorial Day Church Closure

PCCR honors those who lost their lives in the name of something larger than themselves. In observance of Memorial Day, the PCCR Office will be closed on Monday, May 27.

Worship June 16

On June 16th, the Mission Committee is excited to welcome Rev. Craig Sumey to preach to our congregation. He and his wife Lynn will visit Estes Park before they leave for Scotland where they will be involved in a new mission with Communitas International. They will be facilitating a program called "Launch" which prepares the next generation of Christian leaders to plant non-traditional churches in parts of the world where less than 5% of the population are Christians. Rev. Sumey and Lynn will use their gifts to motivate leaders to spread the joy of serving God. We know Rev. Sumey will be excellent in this new venture as he was one of the people who inspired our own Rev. Christine Dempsey. Look for additional information about Rev. Sumey's ministry in next month's newsletter and don't miss his sermon on June 16th. You will leave inspired as well.



Session Highlights ~ May 2024

- ◇ Approved hiring of the Perez Company to remove the playground, at a cost of \$2500.
- ◇ Approved the replacement of the lower driveway with concrete, with costs to be paid from the Foundation.
- ◇ Noted that the entrance sign had been blown down in the recent wind storm. Repair is being planned.
- ◇ Scheduled a New Member class for May 12, 2024.
- ◇ Approved the employment of Brenda Dixon as the new Office Coordinator. She will begin work on June 17, 2024.
- ◇ Approved the new Funeral and Memorial Service policies for members and non-members.
- ◇ Received information re/becoming an Earth Care Congregation.
- ◇ Approved a revised Mission statement and Vision statement for PCCR.
- ◇ Plan to vote at the next meeting on a new policy regarding Pets in the Sanctuary.

Deacon Highlights ~ May 2024






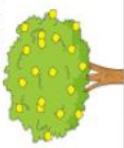








- ◇ Deacons now arrange and serve Communion.
- ◇ We served 3 meals to church members.
- ◇ Plans are developing for a "Coffee and Conversation" group for singles.
- ◇ "In touch" lists for deacons have been distributed. Deacons will at minimum send an email to each family per month.
- ◇ A group called Community Church Connections is being formed for informal visits to church members.

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



MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge</p> <p>8:30am-Journeys-L</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p> <p>11:00am-Membership Information Discussion-Lge</p> <p>2:00pm-Chamber Singers Concert-S</p> <p>5:00pm-Oratorio Society-FH</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>1:00pm-Membership-L</p> <p>3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>6:00pm-Oratorio-S, Music Room</p> <p>6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes*</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>12:30pm-PEO AV-L</p> <p>6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>12:00pm-Bible Study-L</p> <p>3:00pm- Brownies*</p> <p>4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH</p> <p>5:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm</p> <p>6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30am-EPNRC Board*</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>3:00pm-Journeys: Soul Work Group-L</p> <p>5:00pm-EVICS*</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>3:30pm-GS Daisies*</p> <p>7:00pm-Oratorio Society Concert-S</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am-Card-Making Group-FH</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge</p> <p>8:30am-Journeys-L</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>9:00am-Finance-L</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am-Building & Grounds-L</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>1:00pm-Personnel-L</p> <p>3:00pm-Worship and Music-Lge</p> <p>4:00pm-Deacons-L</p> <p>6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:00pm- Brownies*</p> <p>5:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm</p> <p>7:00pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>3:00pm-Columbarium-L</p> <p>4:00pm-Girl Scout Bridging-FH</p> <p>5:00pm-EVICS*</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>5:00pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>8:00am-Police Dept Driver Training – Parking Lot</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge</p> <p>8:30am-Journeys-L</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p> <p>11:00am-Office Coordinator Reception-FH</p> <p>4:00pm-Nebraska Picnic Planning-FH</p> <p>5:00pm-Estes Park Chorale-Music Rm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:30am-PW-L</p> <p>1:00pm-NartheX Task Force-L</p> <p>3:30pm-Ballet Class-FH</p> <p>6:15pm-Girl Scout Cadettes*</p> <p>6:30pm-Session-L</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>4:00pm-Stephen Ministers-L</p> <p>6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>1:00pm-Grief Group-L</p> <p>3:00pm- Brownies*</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-music Rm</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am-Merry Marthas-FH</p> <p>3:30pm-GS Daisies*</p> 	<p>25</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge</p> <p>8:30am-Journeys-L</p> <p>10:00am-Worship</p> <p>12:00pm-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Memorial Day – PCCR Office Closed</p> <p>9:30am-Hospitality-L</p> <p>9:00am-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> <p>4:30pm-Grace&Grub-FH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>6:00pm-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> <p>6:45pm- Hispanic Women's Bible Study*</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00am-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> <p>2:00pm-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> <p>3:00pm-Brownies-L</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>9:00am-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> <p>11:45am-AA Group*</p> <p>6:00pm-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> <p>6:30pm-Chancel Choir-Music Rm</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>8:00am-Mountaintop Marriage Retreat*</p> 	

Note: Calendar events subject to change *Downstairs Room 6



Calling

This land meets you where you are.

When my spirit is strong,
I traverse the tundra and back,
twenty-seven miles without rest,
then look around for more trail to hike.

Some days, though, I scarcely reach the first water
before the darkness in my mind takes over
and I retreat to places of distraction and people. No matter;
this aspen grove does not judge.

And eventually, when I am old or frail,
it will be enough
to drive to the overlook at Forest Canyon,
walk to the edge, look, and stay,
while the wind blows hard,
and the people come, glance, and go,
all the while talking and laughing.

Humans speak one or two languages, perhaps three or four.
This land speaks them all, and beyond,
if you will listen.

At six months, my daughter saw her first Park while cradled in my arms,
looking out over a crater of lava.
At one year she learned the rhythm
of the Highline Trail from my back.
When she was two she smelled the wild hot springs
of the Olympic Peninsula. Sitting there glistening in the silty water,
cold rain landing in heavy drops on her soft skin.
At Rainier the next year,
we spent nine days not seeing the summit,
but found tangles of trees to climb
above the clear slow river.

At five she first let her heart
break for the land
when we left the Great Sand Dunes.
We stood there, she and I,
tears rolling down our faces
gazing back at those soft warm slopes.

Here at home in Rocky,
we take hours to backpack a mile
to a quiet site and stay.
We slide down giant boulders,
play games with sticks and leaves, eat wild berries
- tiny and bitter or tiny and sweet -
sleep in the wind as I did
when I was six too. She's learning to listen
with her body and with her heart. She is learning
and I am not teaching.

And you as well. Stop listening
to humans and turn to the land. It will speak
as you do, lovely or hard
or wordless as you may be. You are welcome here.
If you know not where to start then just go.
Go out with your joy and with your anger
and every beautiful imperfect piece of yourself.
Go out when your heart is breaking
and the mountains will whisper
the words
that you have always longed
to hear,
the ones you dared not admit, even
to yourself.

—Meredith Ishida