



Volume 12, Number 8



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

August 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.





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: Brenda Dixon, 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 September Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, August 20. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



© Contents copyright by the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies 2015-2024 and may not be used for any commercial purpose without written permission from PCCR.

Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

August 4 — 10:00 am, Communion: Chancel Choir

August 11 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir Sopranos and Altos

August 18 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir Tenors and Basses

August 25 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir with Guest Soloist & Cello

**The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor
Jill Hunt, organist and 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.

August 2024

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Dear friends,

Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians writes to the church there, "I give thanks to my God always for you because the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1:4) When I read this note of thanksgiving, I think of you all. I realized that in this newsletter, I will be celebrating my first full year at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. While I felt called by God to discern my next steps and knew that I was to come here, it was not without some sadness in leaving a congregation that I truly loved. Moving to a new state and a new town after thirty-five years is never an easy move, but you made it easy. You welcomed us with open arms and have quickly incorporated us into the life of this church.



Being thankful is part of our call as Christians. Our worship that stems largely from the Psalms is filled with the language of Thanksgiving. "O Give thanks to the Lord!" (Psalm 105) "Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 106 and 107) "Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation." (Psalm 111) When we

think about the gifts of life and the love of God who made us, we give thanks. It is this spirit of gratitude that strengthens us to reach out to others in welcome and kindness. And, WOW, you all have embodied this spirit of gratitude and have so graciously extended it to me and my family. I can't say how wonderful it feels to be embraced by your love and care. You have shown me, through your actions, how the spirit of God has touched this congregation, and this gives me so much hope and excitement about how we will grow together in this upcoming year.

As we enter August, I am looking forward to exploring our Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies faith statement which is a reflection of your ethos of gratitude. This is not a new faith statement but rather a little revision of the older one. I want us to be able to both show and articulate who we are. I want people to experience the fullness of our welcoming spirit and feel wrapped in gratitude for each person who walks through our doors. In addition to Sunday worship, I will be leading a Bible Study on the disciple Paul. It was Paul, alienated from God at the beginning whose life was transformed by God's grace. He truly lived out the remainder of his life in gratitude.

Friends, in one final thank you from my family. I would like to say thank you for the extra support and love that you have given us on the passing of Mike's father, Jerry. Jerry was a kind, thoughtful man who really lived his life loving and caring for his family. Your cards and thoughts are so helpful as we grieve.

Grace and peace,
Christine

Church Picnic 2024



Worship in July



Farewell Bruce

"You may be the only Bible someone will ever read."



Letter from Leman Kayira — 2023 Blankets

Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! How are you there in Colorado! I hope you, Jim, the family and our brothers and sisters at your church are doing well.



I write to sincerely thank you and express our greatest gratitude to you especially and all sons and daughters of the most High God who untiringly are contributing their resources towards the blanket and more so even to the Christmas and new year projects. This time, I confirm the receipt of MK2,430,676.00 in my account. Am very grateful even more to you my sister in Christ because without you, no funds could be sourced. It is as a result of your outstanding relationship and links with other members of your congregation and community thus why the work is being sustained up to today. May the Almighty God bless you and all well wishers. May the love you show return back to you and all contributors a thousand times. Am so grateful to you the people of the United States of America for the compassionate hearts and for the great gift of empathy. For God is love. He is the Logos who was there even before the creation, He is present now and throughout eternity. These are the words we are communicating here.

Your brother in Christ, Leman

Christmas in December Offering



You may have wondered why there was no Christmas in July offering this year. That was because of a calendaring error and July slipped by us. Because of a very generous donation from a member of the PCCR congregation and friend of mission we were able to fund out of the Mission budget, the blanket appeal as well as provide \$250 for the annual Christmas dinner for the very poor. This may be the only full meal that they have for the entire year. The Mission Committee's deepest thanks to our benefactor for providing the resources for this annual project.

A Thank You!

From the Estes Valley Crisis Advocates and My Sister's Place Safehouse, which are supported by the PCCR Mission and Outreach Committee using congregational giving. This thank you note references the Sunday a while back when we spent part of Fellowship Time packing Bolt bags – emergency “get away NOW” kits with basic essentials plus a gift card for Safeway. My Sister's Place gives these to women who are in a dangerous situation – often with small children – so they can hide them for the time when it is possible for them to get out of the situation on short notice.



We don't like to think that these situations are here in Estes Park, but they are. Through this gift from M&O, the PCCR congregation is making a difference.

“Thank you so very much for your generous donation of the gift cards and the Bolt bags! You have been such a fabulous supporter of us and we are very grateful for you! Our Safehouse residents will benefit greatly from these donations!

Sincerely,
Estes Valley Crisis Advocates and My Sister's Place Safehouse”

2024 PC(USA) Mission Benefit Mini-Golf Outing

For about 20 years, the PCCR Mission & Outreach Committee has sponsored a fundraising golf event to provide financial support for PC(USA) mission co-workers serving through World Mission. Again this year, we're having a miniature golf outing for fun, fellowship, and fundraising. Proceeds from this event will support these full-time PC(USA) denominational mission co-workers:

Chenoa Stock serves in Peru as delegations and partnership coordinator, working with visiting PC(USA) delegations to foster partnerships with our Peruvian covenant partners, the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP) and the Joining Hands Peru Network. Chenoa organizes, accompanies, and interprets for visiting delegations, helping to ensure that these visits reflect the mutual mission priorities of the partners. She sets up in-country logistics, assists in planning itineraries, and works with trip leaders and the communities that are visited by the delegations. Chenoa and her husband, José Luis Claire, have one son: Leandro Aiden. Since the COVID pandemic began, she and her family have been staying near relatives in the United States.



Tyler Holm serves in Malawi at the invitation of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). He is a lecturer of systematic theology and church history in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Livingstonia, preparing future CCAP ministers and community leaders. In addition to teaching, Tyler provides computer and library support services for the faculty and students. As a private institution owned and operated by the Synod of Livingstonia the university is open to students of different Christian traditions. Tyler's wife Rochelle is employed at Mzuzu University, where she serves as manager of the Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation. Tyler and Rochelle have lived in Malawi since 2012, and have one daughter, Mphatso.



The 2024 PC(USA) Mission Benefit Mini-Golf Outing will be held at the beautiful Cascade Creek course at Ride-A-Kart, located at the corner of U.S. 34 East and Mall Road. The Mission and Outreach Committee of PCCR is grateful to the owners of Ride-A-Kart and Cascade Creek – Kelly and Andrew Kessler – for the generous support they have extended to our church for the use of their course.

The outing will start promptly at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 1st.
Entry fees are:
\$30 per each person (age 21 and over)
\$1 per year of age up to 20 years

Contributions from non-players are definitely welcome and encouraged, so even if you can't play that day, you can still help our church support these PC (USA) mission co-workers.



Get your team together and come out for a fun evening of fellowship!

Groups and Events

"Bake or Buy, Bring a Pie"

***Pie Social
and Hymn Sing***

Sunday, August 18, 2024

***11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
immediately following worship***



***The Membership and Hospitality Committee
invites you
to join in the fun, music, fellowship,
and of course, enjoying the delicious pies!***

**Bake or buy a pie to share and
bring it
to the church kitchen
before worship.**



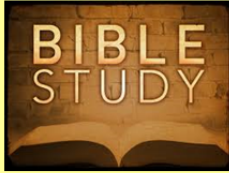
Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine

Join Pastor Christine as Bible Study continues through the month of August on Wednesdays at noon in the Library. Study topics will be focusing on the Apostle Paul.

All are welcome!



Adult Sunday School



Adult Bible Study will take a summer break throughout the month of August. Stay tuned for topic information when the class resumes in early September.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study Books

Available for Fall



Each year Presbyterian Women join together to participate in a monthly Bible study, from September to May, using the study guide from Horizons Magazine. The Bible study for 2024/25 is titled *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. The study is authored by Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull, who is an ordained Presbyterian minister and A.B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. We are invited to "explore with our hearts, God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation. Through this study we will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. We will also explore theological questions that point us to act and engage in small and large ways." We hope you will join us as we journey through this study together.

We encourage you to pick up one of the study books on the back counter in the church office sometime in August. The cost is \$10 per book. There is a spreadsheet on the counter, so you can mark when you pick up the book and check when you paid. Please put your \$10 payment in an envelope (also provided), marked PW Study Book and include your name. Place the payment in Carolyn Hull's mailbox on the wall just outside her office. There are extra lines on the spreadsheet so if you don't see your name listed, just add it to the spreadsheet. We welcome all women who would like to join in this very relevant and contemporary Bible study. If you are unable to come to the church to pick up a study book, please let Karen Daugherty or Renee Warren know, as they would be happy to deliver the books to you.

We will begin the study in September with the introduction and overview on Monday, September 9, along with a brunch. The first lesson will be on Monday, September 16. Watch for more information in the September newsletter. Please join us as we study and learn together.



Choir Notes:

Every Sunday during the church service there is the time for “Joys and Concerns,” and every time we get to that moment, I think of the joy that I get from the musicians that surround me each week; Larry Gillum, Verlene Thorp, Patti Dolezal, Chancel Choir members as well as the Joyful and Chancel Bells.



Larry Gillum is the best organist I have ever worked with. He is an extremely gifted musician who works tirelessly every day on his craft. To many, great organists view accompanying choirs as a chore but not Larry. He approaches it with all the attention that he gives the Prelude, Offertory and Postlude. I am honored to call him a friend and music collaborator.

A new and wonderful joy has presented itself with the addition to the music staff of Verlene Thorp. Verlene has become the Chancel Choir’s official accompanist, and I couldn’t be more pleased. Her dedication and musicianship have been unexpected gifts to me and the choir and is a joy to work with. Then there are the times when she fills in for Larry and does it so well that the service just seems to flow naturally even without the organ.



Now for my extra joys; the choir.

Sopranos; Lori McDonald, Kelly Anderson, Deborah Webb, Jeanne Davis, Kathye Osborne, Patti Dolezal, Elizabeth Burke and our newest soprano, Pastor Christine.

Altos; Brenda Dixon, Pat Waltermire, Carol Nussbaumer, Carol Pearson, Carol Whiteneck, Judy Portman, Amy Fox, Sue Dallam and Eleanor Grant.

Tenors; Brad Anderson, Stan Osborne, Mark Richards, Sandy Moren Lindberg, Betty Walsh, and Carol Davis, and rejoining us after a long health battle Pete Sumeay.

Basses: Jeff Lindberg, Dave Evans, Kent Meyer, Kent Dannen, Ray Verm, Curtis Fox, and Andy Grant.

These people set aside time every Thursday night to prepare to lead worship on Sunday morning, and then arrive to church Sunday morning an hour ahead to put the final touches on their anthem. They prepare over 50 anthems a year for the regular Sunday morning services and then sing extra for Christmas and Easter. Their love for singing and leading worship are unsurpassed by any church of this size. In addition to being in the choir, most of the choir members are now or have been members of the Session, Deacons and numerous church committees. These members of the congregation are constantly giving their time and efforts to this church.



Patti Dolezal and the bell choirs! There is so much that can be said here. If you go on YouTube you can hear a lot of bell choirs that are as good as ours; like St. Olaf’s Bell Choir, and Mormon Tabernacle Bell Choir and the University of..... but wait a minute, do you have to go to University bell choirs and professional bells choirs and “big” churches bell choirs before you can hear similarities to our two bell choirs? Yes! This church is truly blessed to have a person of Patti’s talent leading the bell program here at PCCR.

These are my personal “JOYS”, and I could not be in a better place.

J. Richard Dixon, the proud Director of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies Chancel Choir



Session Highlights ~ July 15, 2024

- ◇ Approved the formation of a special Task Force to develop a Risk Management policy for PCCR. Two at-large members from the congregation are needed to serve on this important committee. Anyone who would like to volunteer for this assignment is asked to please contact Pastor Christine as soon as possible.
- ◇ Approved a new policy regarding animals brought into the church. A copy of the entire policy will be available upon request.
- ◇ Approved the purchase of 24 new chairs for the chapel. Memorial fund monies will be used to cover the expense.
- ◇ Approved the establishment of a Task Force to work on updating the decor of the lounge. It often serves as a dressing room for brides, a gathering place for families at a funeral, or a place for study groups, and needs to be better planned and arranged to fulfill those needs.
- ◇ Approved the addition of Bruce Ellingwood as a member of the Foundation Board.
- ◇ Approved the hiring of Jill Hunt as substitute organist in the absence of Larry Gillum who has had carpal tunnel surgery and will be recovering for several weeks.

Deacon Highlights ~ July 2024

- ◇ Deacons are concerned about the many members of the church who are ill or have experienced surgeries recently. We hope that members will inform the church office about their needs. We are prepared to provide a meal or be in touch with calls and cards.
- ◇ The service for Bruce Brackman will be held at PCCR sanctuary, but the reception will be held at the Lutheran Shepherd of the Mountains church building, and deacons will have no involvement with it.
- ◇ We have had mixed responses to the "In Touch" program. We are each assigned names to contact, and we hope to open communication with the members of the congregation.

Financial Information June 2024

	June	Jan-Jun	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$34,668	\$349,914	\$152,924
Total Expenses	\$47,622	\$384,927	\$148,447
Net Total	-\$12,954	-\$35,013	\$4,477

*Revenues and Expenses numbers for May include donation from PCCR Foundation \$155,792 for the lower parking lot project.

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11:45am AA Group* 1:00pm Personnel Committee 5:00pm EV/CS 6:30pm Chancel Choir- Music Rm	2 8:00am Organ Practice-S 2:00pm PW Board-Library	3
Downstairs Room 6				8 8:30am EPNRC Board Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:30am Back to School Lunch-FH 11:45am AA Group* 6:30pm Chancel Choir- Music Rm		10 9:30am Card-Making Group-FH
4 10:00am Worship	5 1:00pm Membership Committee-Library	6 11:45am AA Group* 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	7 12:00pm Bible Study-Library	8 11:45am AA Group* 3:00pm Columbanum Committee-Library 5:00pm EV/CS-Rm 6 + Nursery	9 8:00am Organ Practice-S 5:00pm Session & Deacon Party-Anderson's	17
11 10:00am Worship- Welcome New Members! Rockies Game	12 9:30am Finance Committee-Library	13 10:00am Building & Grounds-Library 11:45am AA Group* 2:00pm Summer Residents Assn-Library 3:00pm Worship & Music-Library 4:30 Deacons-Library 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	14 10:30am Mission & Outreach Committee-Library 12:00pm Bible Study-Library 1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge	15 11:45am AA Group* 3:00pm Columbanum Committee-Library 5:00pm EV/CS-Rm 6 + Nursery	16 8:00am Organ Practice-S 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	
18 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Pie Social-FH	19 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30 Session-Library	20 Newsletter Deadline 11:45am AA Group* 4:00pm Stephen Ministers-Library 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	21 12:00pm Bible Study-Library	22 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:45am AA Group* 6:30pm Chancel Choir- Music Rm	23 8:00am Organ Practice-S 9:30am Merry Mathias-FH 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	24
25 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal-FH	26 9:30am Hospitality-Library 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:30pm Grace & Grib 6:00pm Oratorio Chorus Rehearsal-S	27 11:45am AA Group* 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study-L	28 12:00pm Bible Study-Library 1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge	29 11:45am AA Group* 6:30pm Chancel Choir- Music Rm	30 8:00am Organ Practice-S 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	31