



Volume 13, Number 5



Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies

May 2025 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.



**Members of the
Meditation Trail Task Force**



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 June Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, May 20. Please send your pictures and stories to:
office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

May 4 — 10:00am Chancel Bells with Darin Workman on saxophone

May 11 — 10:00am Joyful Bells; Chancel Choir

May 18 — 10:00am Chancel Choir

May 25 — 10:00am Chancel Choir

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".



Carolyn Hull is Retiring!

Dear friends,

I have been given the honor of announcing the upcoming retirement of our beloved Carolyn Hull. She has been our financial secretary for over 25 years and has held us together through the pandemic, fire threat, the devastating flood and pastoral change. We will miss her leadership and her gracious presence. Personally, I will miss her friendship, but I am excited for her new chapter.

We will have Carolyn throughout the month of June and look forward to a big party on July 27—more details to come...

Grace and Peace,
Christine

May 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Through locked doors

Perhaps you have heard the buzz that our church, Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies has been awarded an \$85,750 security grant through the House of Worship Grant by FEMA. Wow! What a gift! What an opportunity to protect our building! And, within the month of May we will implement this new security system which will include cameras, electronic access controls, and the ability to monitor our building. This is good news for our staff, our visitors, and our community. But it will mean that **your key will no longer work!**



Jesus has called us to honor all people, welcome the stranger and to feed his flock. This means that we want our broader community to feel at home here. Do you know that currently, we have Girl Scouts, EVICS, AA, Al-anon, the Good-Grief group, Ballet Renaissance, Estes Park Oratorio, Estes Park Chorale, Estes Park Chamber Singers, Card Making, Journeys Soul Stories, the Learning Place Café, Estes Park Non-profit Network and the Mountain Top Marriage Retreat in addition to our church groups that regularly use our building? We need a means to provide them not only with space but also with clear access practices that help them feel comfortable, safe and confident in using our building.

While such a system is a welcome upgrade to our facility, its implementation will come with some growing pains. We need to be patient as we work together to find out how we can maintain our welcome and yet have supervision over the many groups that use our facility. We want all people, both members of our church family and our community, to feel safe and valued. And this new system will help us continue to grow "The Community Church" in all aspects of our ministry.

We have many people to thank for their hard work on this project. First, Chuck Bonza who did the application and continues to oversee parts of the process, Mike Moon who originally proposed an increased security solution and is working tirelessly to find best practice solutions for the new hardware and software, Jim Nussbaumer who knows the church backwards and forwards and understands the reality of implementation, and Dennis Jacobs who is the moderator of Building and Grounds. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Chuck Bonza.

Grace and Peace,

Christine

Worship in April



Updates to the Lounge and Chapel



Are you an elder in our church (current or former?) Do you want to know more about our bigger connectional church? The Presbytery of Plains and Peaks is looking for a few ordained elders to participate on Presbytery committees. If this interests you, please let Pastor Christine know.

Do you love the feel of a “real” book in your hands? Are you passionate for keeping things in order? Do you thrive on details? Do you just want to get out of the house for a few hours during the week?

You might be the exact person we are looking for! Our church library is in need of a volunteer to oversee it's inventory. If you are interested or need further information, contact the church office.



Crossroads Donations Update

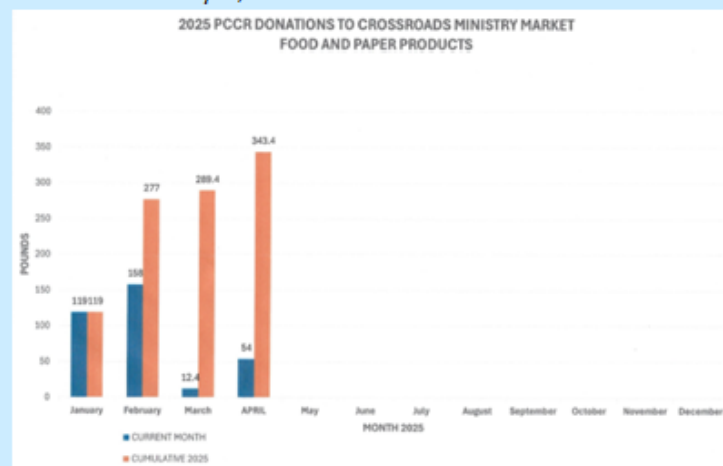


DID YOU KNOW?

In 2024, Crossroads distributed 218,539 pounds of food and necessities to our neighbors in need in the Estes Valley.

Don't forget that PCCR has a grocery cart in the Narthex on the third Sunday of every month and is available for your donations at any time. Your gift gives someone a hand up, not a hand out, of Christian love and hope.

Thank you, Your Mission and Outreach Committee



A Presentation by the PCCR Foundation

The Foundation will be hosting a luncheon after church on June 1, 2025, to discuss the role of the PCCR Foundation and its importance to our church. We will have the opportunity to hear from the Foundation's investment advisor, Matt Veenker with First National Bank of Omaha, who will give a presentation on Estate Planning and other various ways to contribute to the Foundation during a person's lifetime. Lunch will be provided.

For those of you who are not familiar with the PCCR Foundation, it was incorporated as a tax-exempt organization in 2007. Over the years, the Foundation has been able to supply funds on major capital projects such as the re-pavement of the east driveway, chancel renovations, sanctuary lighting, organ renovations and kitchen upgrades. The Foundation also funds the annual audit or review of PCCR and the Foundation by Taylor Roth, Certified Public Accountants. Future projects under the planning stage include the replacement of the mansard roof and converting the small restroom in the library into a family/companion restroom, allowing space for a wheelchair and a caregiver or companion and making it accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity by attending this special presentation, make your reservation by adding your name to the sign up sheet located in the Narthex or by emailing the church office at office@pccrusa.org or calling Brenda Dixon at 970-586-4404. By making your reservation, you will help us determine how many meals to prepare for. Please reach out to Mike Warren at mike.p.warren@comcast.net if you have any questions.

One Great Hour of Sharing update...

The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. As of late-April, the church has received \$2,292.00 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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

New Carpet Installation!

Thanks to the hard work of the Building & Grounds Committee, with special recognition to Michael Moon, Jim Nussbaumer, Dennis Jacobs & Mike Dempsey for getting the lower level area prepared, the installation of the new carpet has begun.

Phase I includes the hallways, Room 1 & Room 6.



Room 6

Hallway



PW Birthday Offering
"And you shall surely celebrate."
Deuteronomy 16:15b
May 11, 2025

The PW Birthday Offering is an annual tradition for Presbyterian Women. Since its beginnings over a century ago, grants from this offering have funded more than 200 major capital projects and today the fruits of this labor are still found in places such as South Korea, Peru, Malawi and all across the United States. The tradition began when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life, encouraging them to offer "a penny for every year you have lived, and if that is a secret, bring a dollar!" That penny in 1922 would be worth 19 cents today. This year's offering is based on Deuteronomy 16:15b, "For the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all your undertakings, and you shall surely celebrate." The two projects chosen for this year's grants are:

- Windward Volunteer Housing Facility in Mississippi— The Leland Presbyterian Church in Mississippi is located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta region, and struggles with barriers to adequate housing, healthcare and food access. After a F-4 tornado leveled two communities in the delta the church repurposed a facility to house volunteer groups. They could house up to 20 volunteers, but basic needs were missing. A new facility will be built that will house volunteers, as well as members of the community who need a temporary place to stay. This facility will provide showers, laundry and a kitchen as well as safe, comfortable accommodations.
- Red Cloud Renewable is a Lakota Thiyuha Dome Home Project in South Dakota, where tribal communities are experiencing a housing crisis. In Pine Ridge Reservation, an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 homes are needed. Red Cloud Renewable, a Native-led grassroots nonprofit organization on the Pine Ridge Reservation, provides free training and workforce development opportunities designed to "teach our tribal relatives to fish." This grant will construct three dome homes and provide construction apprentices with experience to build additional homes.

Your gifts to the Birthday Offering will help support organizations such as these, undertaking capital projects to recover from natural disasters, provide safe and adequate housing for those in need and in the process provide these same people with skills that will help them succeed in life. Through this offering, we can continue to encourage and inspire one another to celebrate and bless God, as God continues to bless each of us. Let's celebrate what God is doing in all our lives. Thank you.



Pentecost Sunday June 8, 2025

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.



Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension — when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to keep it going, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us, who blesses us all with different gifts to be used at different times and in different ways. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

Making a Difference with Mission Dollars

The Mission and Outreach Committee has been busy doling out support from PCCR to local mission partners. We have received thank-you letters from Crossroads Ministry, Salud Foundation, Estes Valley Restorative Justice and Estes Valley Crisis Advocates for much appreciated funds. Quarterly budgeted funds were also disbursed to Estes Park Learning Place, Habitat for Humanity, EVICS, Highlands Camp, the Theological Education Fund, the Marion Medical Mission Shallow Well Project, and the Medical Benevolence Fund. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the 2025 Mission and Outreach Budget makes it possible for us to share financial resources with selected local, regional and international partners. The committee also budgeted \$4,350 in Emergency Funds for 2025, making it possible for us to respond to unexpected emergencies and disasters. In March, the committee voted to match funds raised by the congregation for LA Fire Recovery, and contributed \$1,059 from the Emergency Funds line item, making our total church donation for fire recovery \$2,118. The Mission and Outreach Committee is grateful to the congregation for your support!

If you would like to serve as a greeter at church on Sunday morning please contact Lois Ellingwood at 970-586-3064 or ldellingwood13@gmail.com

Groups and Events

PW Bible Study and Salad Luncheon May 19, 2025—11:00 am Let Justice Roll Down—Lesson Nine



Let's join together in the church library to celebrate another year of fellowship and Bible study. On Monday, May 19, at 11:00, we will enjoy a salad potluck luncheon before discussing our final lesson for the Bible study titled, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Please bring a salad to share for our meal together. The PW Board will provide the dessert. We will begin a bit earlier this month, eating at 11:00 and having the Bible study at 12 noon. Betty Meyer will lead the discussion of Lesson 9, Sustaining Creation's Health for All. In this challenging and unique Bible study we have learned how scripture, the natural world and modern science work together to provide a clearer understanding of the world we share. Throughout the study we have been inspired to join with the natural world and our fellow citizens to seek environmental justice for all of creation. We look forward to seeing you on May 19, in the church library at 11:00, for our final meeting until September. All are

Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine

Wednesday Bible study will continue with a study on "Genesis—In the Beginning", meeting in the church Library at 12:00 noon.

May 7—Abraham and Sarah;
Genesis 17-18:14
May 14—NO CLASS
May 21—Sodom and Gomorrah;
Genesis 18:16-19:29
May 28—Bad choices and God's redeeming
work; Genesis 19:20-20:18

All are welcome!

The Estes Park Chorale Presents

Love Notes

Saturday, May 10, 2025

2:00pm

PCCR Sanctuary

Admission: \$10.00 per person

Tickets available at the door



The Estes Valley Chamber Singers

in concert

Celebrating the Music of Randall Thompson

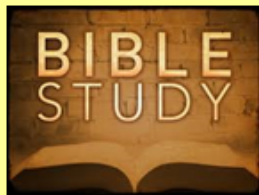
Sunday, May 18

2:00pm

PCCR Sanctuary

Donations Accepted





Not Your Mother's Sunday School

The group variously known as Adult Sunday School or Adult Study Group is moving to a **new day and a new time!** The early Sunday morning meeting is difficult for some who would like to attend, so beginning on May 9 we will be meeting at **10:00am each Friday** in the church library.

We are not your mother's Sunday School! No coloring sheets, no craft time and certainly no reading the same Bible stories over and over!

We seek to expand our knowledge of the Church, her history, the people who have gone before us and how we may fit into the bigger picture of God's purpose. Most often this is done using videos from various sources—we are partial to those from the Israel Bible Institute because of their “we didn't know that” approach—but have used others, especially around Christmas time. Last December we studied some of the lesser-known Christmas hymns and have done some traditional Bible study. We will be selecting a new course of study in May as we complete “Listening to the Land of the Bible” for the second time.

All are welcome! Even if you can only join in occasionally, we value your presence and your input. Most classes are “stand alone”, so you won't feel left behind when you must miss a class. We look forward to seeing you in the library on May 9 at 10:00.

Journeys

Journeys is a “community of faith-travelers” working toward building a fellowship that supports each person as they seek spiritual wholeness. The discussions cover a broad range of topics. All are welcome.

In May, Journeys will focus on issues related to climate change. The weekly schedule is:

May 4	The Call of Conscience led by Don Sessions
May 11	Climate Change led by Scott Robbins and Mary Mesropian
May 18	Climate Change led by Scott Robbins and Mary Mesropian
May 25	Memorial Day—no meeting

Journeys meets Sunday mornings in the church library. Gathering begins at 8:15am, 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)

(Journeys is a community-based study group led by independent facilitators.)



Choir Notes....

When I'm sitting in the congregation, I'm amazed at the beautiful voices I hear around me and I wonder "why aren't they in choir?" Yes, we have a big choir for a church this size and yes, they do a **wonderful** job leading worship but I think that those of you sitting in the congregation would find a lot of joy being part of this musical family. The choir does grow in the spring and summer months as we look forward to the return of our summer residents but I would still love to see the choir loft overflowing with singers!



Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 6:30–8:00pm. The only requirement to be part of the choir is that you love to sing. It doesn't matter if you can't read music. The church choir is made up of a wide range of abilities and ages all working together to share in the worship experience.

Now is a perfect time to join us as we enter this new season of spring and summer. Give it a try! You might discover a new side of yourself while having a lot of fun in the process.

–Rich



Financial Information March 2025			
	March	Jan-Mar	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$30,838	\$188,902	\$103,794
Total Expenses	\$84,970	\$169,335	\$126,794
Net Total	-\$54,132	\$19,567	-\$23,000

*Revenue State of CO Grant \$40,000 & Carpet in Basement \$19,295

*Expense Carpet in Basement \$7,500
Greeley Lock & Key \$40,000
Carpet Installation Deposit \$3,000

May

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00am Digital Access-Cord 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group Lounge 4:00pm Church Bible-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Church Choir	2 10:00am 8:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	3 8:30am Card Making Group-L 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449 - Rm 6 10:30am Memorial Service for Phil Inspirational SLEH 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group Lounge
				8 8:30am Etronic Ears Meeting 10:00am Digital Access-Cord 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group Lounge 3:00pm Journeys Inner Work-L 4:00pm Church Bible-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm Church Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	9 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 11:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:00pm Estes Park Chorale Renaissance-SLMS	10 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449 - Rm 6 2:00pm Estes Park Chorale Concert-S-MR 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group Lounge
4 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship	5 8:30am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 10:00am Christian Ed Concert-L 1:00pm Membership Concert-L 2:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	6 10:00am Digital Access-Cord 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 12:00pm PED Chapter AVL 1:00pm Journeys Soul College-Rm 6 3:00pm Easter Renaissance-FH 6:30pm EVCS-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	7 9:30am Meditation Trail Task Force-L 12:00pm Bible Study-L 12:30pm Estes Nonprofit Network-Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Beliefs-FH 5:30pm Lullaby Quinet-MR	8 8:30am Etronic Ears Meeting 10:00am Digital Access-Cord 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group Lounge 3:00pm Journeys Inner Work-L 4:00pm Church Bible-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm Church Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	9 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 11:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:00pm Estes Park Chorale Renaissance-SLMS	10 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449 - Rm 6 2:00pm Estes Park Chorale Concert-S-MR 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group Lounge
11 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship	12 9:30am France Cornett-L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	13 9:30am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 10:00am Mission Outreach-L 12:00pm Bible Study-L 1:00pm The Good Gift Group-Lounge 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 70455/7764-Rm 6	14 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group-Lounge 3:00pm Columbian Concert-L 5:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Church Choir-MR	15 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 11:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	16 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449 - Rm 6 4:00pm Girl Scout Daisy Troop 70904-Rm 6 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group Lounge	17 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449 - Rm 6 4:00pm Girl Scout Daisy Troop 70904-Rm 6 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group Lounge
18 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship Crossroads Donations 2:00pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers Concert-S Worship-L 4:00pm Session-L	19 8:00am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 9:30am Hospitality Concert-Lounge 11:30am Presbyterian Worship-L 4:00pm Session-L	20 Newletter DocOffice 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 1:00pm Journeys Soul College-Rm 6 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	21 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group-Lounge 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Church Choir-MR	22 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group-Lounge 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Church Choir-MR	23 9:30am Merry Martians-Lounge 10:00am Adult Study Group-L	24 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
25 10:00am Worship 1:00pm Mountain Top Marriage Retreat-Rm 6	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm Grace and Grub All Day Mountain Top Marriage Retreat-Rm 6	27 8:30am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6 All Day Mountain Top Marriage Retreat-Rm 6	28 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group-Lounge 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Church Choir-MR All Day Mountain Top Marriage Retreat-Rm 6	29 12:00pm Shopping Stores At- Acorn Group-Lounge 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Church Choir-MR All Day Mountain Top Marriage Retreat-Rm 6	30 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 10:30am Memorial Service for Leah Cheney-SLEH End at 12:30pm Mountain Top Marriage Retreat-Rm 6	31 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge