



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

September 2022 Newsletter

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

Core Value: The Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies is a Sacred Community formed around Jesus the Christ where we experience God's presence in our lives and service together.

Volume 10, Number 9



Mini-golf FUN-raiser — Sunday, September 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Again this year, the PCCR Mission & Outreach Committee invites you to enjoy a miniature golf outing to help raise financial support for these denominational PC (USA) 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.

Based in Malawi, **Cheryl Barnes** serves as the education facilitator for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), collaborating with the CCAP Education Department and the education departments of the five CCAP Synods — three in Malawi, one in Zambia, and one in Zimbabwe — to improve the quality of primary school education in the many schools under the CCAP umbrella. A focus of Cheryl's ministry is working with the CCAP to safeguard the rights of children by developing child protection policies and implementing them in schools.

Where: Cascade Creek mini-golf course at Ride-A-Kart, U.S. 34 and Mall Road

When: Sunday, September 11, starting promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Entry fees are:

- \$30 for an individual adult (age 21 and over)
- \$50 for a couple
- \$100 for a team of four registering together
- \$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!





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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Chris Davis, 414-690-4488, pastor@pccrusa.org

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal, music@pccrusa.org

Choir Director: Rich Dixon

Organist: Larry Gillum

Financial Manager: Carolyn Hull, finance@pccrusa.org

Office Administrator: Terry Brigham, office@pccrusa.org

Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

September 4 — 10:00 am, Communion

September 11 — 10:00 am

September 18 — 10:00 am

September 25—10:00 am

The Rev. Chris Davis, 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".

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 October Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, September 20. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!

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THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR GRACIOUS USHER VOLUNTEERS

The Worship and Music committee wishes to convey our gratitude and sincere appreciation to the dedicated cadre of volunteers who serve each Sunday. Your efforts in greeting, bulletins, seating, offering, and communion are truly important to an effective and dignified worship service. About 16 of you have served faithfully since we returned to in-person worship, and your smiling welcome and helpful demeanor have been a blessing to members and visitors alike. Thank you!

There is certainly room for more participants, so if anyone has an interest in ushering on the occasional Sunday please contact the church office, an usher, or any Worship and Music committee member.



Sunday Greeters Needed!

If you are interested in serving as a Greeter on Sunday mornings and have never been asked, please contact Lois Ellingwood, 970-586-3064, ldellingwood13@gmail.com and she will get you scheduled.

September 2022

Message from Pastor Chris Davis . . .

Dear PCCR Family,

I want to begin by thanking everyone who has nominated church member(s) to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). We have a wonderful list of nominees all thanks to you. The Nominating Committee met on Sunday, August 28 to begin the process of creating the PNC. Once they have their slate of seven nominees, we will hold a Congregational Meeting to receive and elect the slate of nominees which will establish PCCR's Pastor Nominating Committee. My hope is that the Congregational Meeting will take place later in September or the first of October. Stay tuned!



Now that the process to call PCCR's next pastor is in place, I also want to update you on my plans as Interim Pastor and what the future holds for me once my time as Interim is over. My time as your Interim Pastor has been a gift from God. I have so enjoyed developing relationships with you as well as serving alongside you in the Estes Park community.

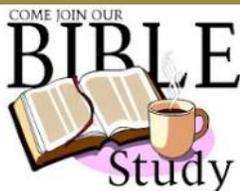
After considerable prayer and family conversations, I still feel called to step away from ordained ministry and expand my career in real estate. Because of my love for Estes Park and my relationships within the congregation, I am happy to announce that I am joining The Thompson Group here in Estes Park.

The specifics of this transition are still a work in progress between me, the Session, and the Personnel Committee. At this time, I can share that as I begin with The Thompson Group I will serve through the end of the year as your Interim Pastor in a full-time capacity. Beginning in January, my role as Interim Pastor will move to a part-time position. Once we have the specifics in place, I will let you know; hopefully this will be announced in October or November.

In the meantime, I look forward to walking with you through the PNC process and once the new pastor is called, I am committed to making the pastoral transition as easy and as seamless as possible. I have always preached Christian ministry can happen in all shapes and sizes; being a pastor is not a pre-requisite. I look forward to following God's call in the next chapter of my life and discipleship. I am grateful beyond words for your prayers and support.

I believe God has wonderful plans in store for PCCR and this church's ministry in Estes Park. I am thankful that when I leave PCCR as your Interim Pastor that I will be able to witness your ministry, not as your pastor, but as your friend and brother in Christ serving the people of this beautiful town, we call home.

*In Christ's Faithful Service,
Pastor Chris*

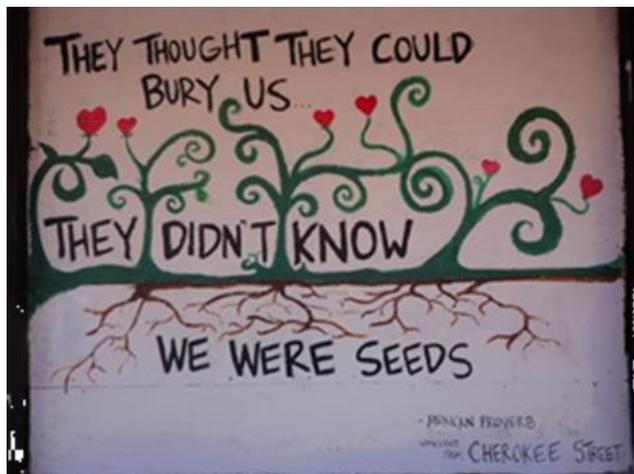


The **Adult Bible Study group** completed the study of the Book of Revelation in August. A new study will begin at a later date -- watch for details.

Dear friends,

“They thought they could bury us... They didn’t know we were seeds.”

This quote, and the beautiful mural it is written on, have been engrained on my heart and mind from the first time I saw it while driving through the streets of Ferguson, just months after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in 2014.



Mural from the streets of Ferguson, Missouri

Perhaps this quote has returned to my consciousness, given the current events in the U.S. in Buffalo, NY; Laguna Woods, CA; Uvalde, TX, and more. I think about my four-year-old son, the lives lost, the families affected, the state of the U.S. and the world. I recognize my despair and sadness and allow myself the time to mourn. My heart and mind initially focus on the first part of this quote, feeling overwhelmed and submerged in tragic news.

But thankfully, in the literary world, we do not stop at a comma; we must read on. Likewise, as Christians, we do not stop at death; we are called to be agents of spiritual photosynthesis – being light and water to the seeds of Hope and Life.

As I embrace this time I have had in the U.S., I have been in awe, watching spring make its presence known in our area: grass, as if overnight, turning from brown to green; trees fully covered in blowing leaves; flowers blooming up in every crack and garden; bugs and insects permeating the air; and the sun’s rays as strong as ever. Many months ago, seeds were planted so we could now enjoy this magnificent spectacle of growth in God’s Creation.

Throughout the pandemic, our partners in Peru and their ministries have also experienced loss and sadness in their communities. They have been overwhelmed by the increased inequality and food insecurity that the pandemic has exacerbated and have felt the effects of isolation and disruption of daily life.

But they did not stop. They planted seeds of Hope. They kept looking toward the Light.

I speak with our partners now, knowing that their seminary and Bible institutes are currently full of students, that COVID-19 case numbers have dropped drastically in the country (at the time of writing), and that a majority of the population is vaccinated. I can sense the Hope and growth that has come from patiently waiting in faith, trusting that their ministries would flourish again in God’s time.

One particular ministry where I have seen planted seeds come to life is through Jesusa Chavez’s work with the Women’s League of the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP). Jesusa tirelessly advocated for the recognition of women in the denomination. She created theological courses and curriculums, made possible by their partnership with U.S. congregations, and traveled nonstop to multiple rural, hard to reach regions so that women could receive training and become stronger leaders in the denomination.



A recent meeting of the Women’s Ministry Course – Cuzco, Peru

Before her passing, Jesusa proudly attended the August graduation of the first 10 women to complete this course. I have since learned that these 10 women are now accompanying Jesusa's husband, Pastor Leopoldo, supporting him in watering the seeds planted by Jesusa's traveling and teaching the different courses to Women's Leagues around the region.

Pastor Leopoldo recently shared with me that, unsurprisingly, it was Jesusa's dream to empower women of the church, not only in their region of Cuzco but in the entire IEP denomination. As her curriculum continues to be shared far and wide in the Cuzco region, and as more women participate in this theological training, Leopoldo gratefully expressed that they have made "un pasito," a step forward towards changing the mentality regarding accepting women's place in the church. Jesusa's seed of empowerment has been faithfully planted and watered. It continues to grow. Currently, the IEP is reviewing her curriculum with the possibility of adopting it as its denomination's national educational material.

It is these stories and more that I am excited to share with you while I am on Interpretation Assignment in the U.S. through December. During these months, I can more intentionally dedicate my time to being with U.S. congregations and bringing these seeds of hope to life from our partners. The employee travel ban was recently lifted, so I am now free to make in-person visits with churches. I want to emphasize that given the ups and downs of the pandemic and the fact that my son is not yet vaccinated, I will remain aware of the case numbers in a region before traveling. In order to be a faithful steward of God's Creation and resources, I will schedule visits by region. Please let me know if your congregation is interested, and hopefully, there are a few more churches in the area that I could also visit while I'm there. While wanting to be with you in person, please know that virtual visits are still an option during this time. It will be a joy to connect with you in whatever way possible!

Thank you, as always, for being agents of spiritual photosynthesis by pouring your prayers and support onto our seeds of partnership. May they continue to grow and be nourished, living into God's Light and Hope.

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches. Matthew 13:31-32

Peace,
Chenoa

Chenoa Stock is a Presbyterian mission coworker who serves in Peru, along with her husband Jose' and son, Leandro

Blessing of the Animals ~ Sunday, August 21

The Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies held its first Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, August 21 in the outdoor chapel. Members of the Estes Park community were invited to join church members in gathering to have their beloved pets blessed by Pastor Chris. The service was well attended by pet owners and their dogs, stuffed animals representing animals too large or skittish to attend, and even chickens.

At the service Pastor Chris explained that "to bless means to ask God's favors upon or to wish them well. In these modern times, since so many animals are treated as commodities and are abused and neglected, we think it's essential that people be made aware that these creatures are an integral part of God's creation. They are deserving of our loving stewardship. We are mutually interdependent with God's creatures. We need them and they need us."

(See photos on next page)

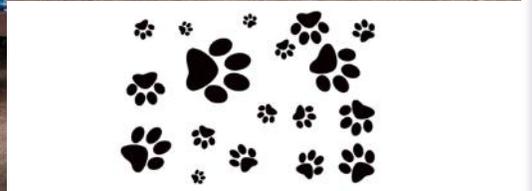


Blessing of the Animals





*Sunday,
August 21, 2022*



*Photos credit:
Peter Plaut*



Attention Church Women!



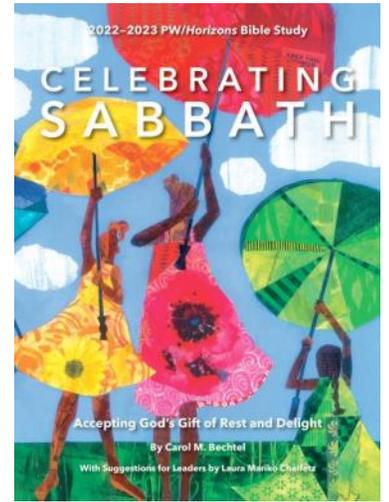
The Presbyterian Women Bible Study for this year begins **Monday, September 12 at 11:30 am** with our kickoff lunch and overview of this year's study.

You are cordially invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am Monday, September 12. Casseroles and beverages will be provided. If you like, bring a side dish, dessert, or bread to share with your church sisters.

Pat Waltermire will present an overview of this year's study, ***Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight.***

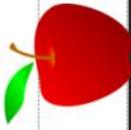
PW Bible study meets the 3rd Monday of every month from September to May. The first lesson will be studied on Monday, September 19 in the church library. We gather at 11:30 am for fellowship and prayer and have the lesson from 12:00 to 1:00 so that working women can attend on a lunch hour. Feel free to bring a snack or sack lunch. Coffee will be served.

Please join us for a fun and informative study time!



On August 2, a group of happy volunteers came to church to help Carol Nussbaumer with coloring the handbell music notes of favorite hymns for the deaf in Malawi — in preparation for her upcoming trip to Africa.





September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's 7:00pm-Chancel Choir		
8:30am-Adult Bible Study 10:00am-Worship	Church Office Closed 	2:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 7:00pm-Chamber Singers	4:00pm-Joyful Bells	8:30am-EPNRC Board 9:00am-Mission Comm. 10:00am-Staff Meeting 4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's 6:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 7:00pm-Chancel Choir	~Boy Scout Troop 184- Room 6 downstairs	9:00am-Card Making Group ~Boy Scout Troop 184- Room 6 downstairs
8:30am-Adult Bible Study 10:00am- Worship	9:00am-Finance Committee 11:00am-PW Kickoff Lunch and Bible Study 11:00am-Communications 2:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 6:00pm-EVICS-ESL Class	10:00am-Building and Grounds Committee 12:30pm-Personnel Com. 2:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 4:30pm-Stephen Ministers 7:00pm-Chamber Singers 7:00pm-Deacons	4:00pm-Joyful Bells 6:45pm-Estes Park Chorale	2:00pm-Worship and Music Committee 3:00pm-Columbarium Committee 4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's 6:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 7:00pm-Chancel Choir		
8:30am-Adult Bible Study 8:30am-Journeys Class 10:00am- Worship	11:30am-PW Bible Study 2:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 6:00pm-EVICS-ESL Class 6:30pm-Session	Newsletter Deadline 2:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 7:00pm-Chamber Singers	9am-4pm-Estes Park Health Foundation 4:00pm-Joyful Bells 6:45pm-Estes Park Chorale	9am-12noon-Estes Park Health Foundation 10:00am-Staff Meeting 4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's 6:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 7:00pm-Chancel Choir	9:30am-Merry Marthas	
8:30am-Adult Bible Study 8:30am-Journeys Class 10:00am- Worship	9:00am-Membership and Hospitality Committee 4:30pm-Grace and Grub Picnic at PCCR 6:00pm-EVICS-ESL Class	2:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 7:00pm-Chamber Singers	4:00pm-Joyful Bells 6:45pm-Estes Park Chorale	4:00pm-Chancel Bells 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's 6:00pm-Ballet Renaissance 7:00pm-Chancel Choir		



Note: Calendar events subject to change

Session Highlights ~ August 2022

- ◇ Approved final plans for hosting the Presbytery meeting at PCCR on August 27.
- ◇ Reviewed arrangements for the Blessing of the Animals on August 21 at the Outdoor Chapel.
- ◇ Reviewed and approved a proposal from Buildings and Grounds for work on the boiler system.
- ◇ Discussed and approved a proposal from Buildings and Grounds for installation of a new and improved security system in the building.
- ◇ Approved the purchase of two spaces in the Columbarium for Paula and Frank Megorden.
- ◇ Noted that Restorative Justice will receive our portion of the Peace and Global Witness offering.
- ◇ Scheduled the Harvest Soup Festival for October 16.



Deacon Highlights ~ August 2022

- ◇ Robert Sherrod will represent deacons at the Session meeting on August 15, 2022.
 - ◇ Seven cards were sent by Verlene Thorp.
 - ◇ Deacons serve coffee hour on August 21.
 - ◇ Deacons will serve lunch to Presbytery representatives at the Presbytery meeting at PCCR on August 27.
 - ◇ Bill Almond was elected to be the deacons' representative on the church nominating committee.
-

Grace and Grub Picnic — on the church patio

Monday, September 26 at 4:30 p.m.

All are welcome!



Hotdogs, buns, condiments, and tableware will be provided. The rest of the meal is potluck. Bring a side dish to share, your own drinks, and lawn chairs.

Beginning in October, Grace and Grub will once again meet in homes in small groups. If you are interested in getting to know new friends, enjoy laughter, good food and conversation, this is for you!

For more details and to sign up, contact Joy Holcomb, joyholcomb11@gmail.com or 970-586-9600.

Hope you can join the fun!

Financial Information July 2022

	July	Year to Date	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$29,313	\$188,595	\$213,547
Total Expenses	\$25,714	\$224,399	\$247,995
Net Total	\$3,599	-\$35,804	-\$34,448



“For the past 35+ years, caring ministry has been a hallmark of our Christian faith community. It is at the heart of all we do. Let us know if we can be of help.”

~ Your PCCR Stephen Ministers

Journeys

Journeys is on Summer Break and will resume meeting on September 18. All of our Sunday morning meetings are held online via Zoom. All are welcome.

We will begin the Fall season by spending some time sharing something about ourselves as a way of getting reacquainted. The following week we will start a two-week discussion of the basic tenants of the group behind the website: progressivechristianity.org.

The schedule is:

- September 4 No Class
- September 11 No Class
- September 18 Round Table sharing of experiences during Summer Break
- September 25 Discussion of the basic tenets of progressivechristianity.org

You can use the link below to join the meeting. The Zoom session opens at 8:15 each Sunday, with the program starting promptly at 8:30. We adjourn at 9:45.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTctlUT09>

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



Sunday, August 14, 2022

Pie Social and Hymn Sing

A big *“Thank You”* to the Membership and Hospitality Committee for the hard work and dedication in making the Pie Social and Hymn Sing such a wonderful gathering.

