



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

February 2023 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 11, Number 2

February Events

AN EVENING WITH CRAIG CHILDS:
A Conversation with the Author
Monday, February 6 at 6:00 pm
Sponsored by Estes Valley Library

**ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PCCR CONGREGATION**
Sunday, February 12 at 11 am

SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER
Tuesday, February 21 at 4:30

**ORATORIO SOCIETY ORCHESTRA
CONCERTS**
Friday, Feb 24 at 7:00 pm
Saturday, Feb 25 at 2:00 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Wednesday, February 22 at noon





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: Meredith Ishida, office@pccrusa.org



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



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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

February 5 — 10:00 am, Communion

February 12 — 10:00 am

February 19 — 10:00 am

February 22 — 12:00 noon, Ash Wednesday Service

February 26 — 10:00 am, Rev. Bruce Brackman, preaching

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”.

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>



Webpage Suggestions

Help us update our webpage!

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.

January 2023

Message from Pastor Chris Davis . . .

“The Echo of Ashes” by theologian, Joyce Rupp

“Remember you are dust
and to dust you shall return.”

The large brown bowl
rests on a purple cloth
its roundness holding ashes
freshly burned
black and ready for wearing.

Blackened thumbs
press the ancient sign
upon the waiting foreheads.

I hear the message repeated
until it haunts and hunts me down:
remember, remember, remember
you are dust, dust, only dust
someday only dust will remain.

The echo of the Lent-stained ashes
speaks the truth of my humanity:
the humbleness of my beginning,
the simplicity of my departure.

A few wise words
echoing through Ash Wednesday
urge me to deeper things:
renewed dedication,
constant compassion,
and mindful awareness.

I leave marveling
at how simple and sublime
is this envelope of the soul,
which one day returns
to dust, dust, only dust.



Ash Wednesday Service

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service, February 22, at 12 noon in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, forty weekdays before Easter. The ancient practice of placing ashes on the forehead symbolizes repentance and contrition, reminding all of us that we are God’s creation and to God we will return.

Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 21, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and is traditionally the day when families clean out their kitchens of sugars, sweets, and other indulgent foods as they prepared for the somber and sober days of Lent. Please see the notice in this month’s newsletter regarding the Pancake Supper, hosted by Grace and Grub. Laissez les bons temps rouler! I hope to see you there!

*In Christ’s Faithful Service,
Pastor Chris Davis*

Welcome New Members!

Though they just recently became members, **Anne and Dennis Jacobs** are no strangers to the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. True native midwesterners, Anne was born in Coffeyville, Kansas and Dennis in Kansas City, Missouri. During their senior year at the University of Kansas, they met on a blind date set up by roommates. Two years later, they married, then were stationed at Arlington, Virginia, where Dennis served with the United States Army Honor Guard and Anne taught at George C. Marshall High School. After Dennis received an honorable discharge, the Midwest drew the Jacobses back, this time to Tulsa, Oklahoma where Dennis began his career in the practice of architecture and Anne retired from teaching to raise two wonderful sons. Seven years later, Dennis made a career move to Coffeyville and eventually retired there after a 47 year career as an architect.



Anne and Dennis then became part-year residents of Estes Park and are now transitioning to full time. They visited PCCR and never visited another church afterward. In their own words, “We were overwhelmed by the friendliness of the members and the professional quality of the musicians. We’re glad to be a part of PCCR.” And we are glad to have you!

We are also happy to welcome **Mel and Leslie Causer**. Mel and Leslie are relatively new to the area, having moved to Estes Park in June. They come to us from the Lakewood United Methodist Church in Houston, where they lived for 40 years. During that time, Mel was an Underwriter in the Oil and Gas field, insuring on- and offshore oil rigs and platforms. Leslie worked in the medical field, front office and billing departments. They raised two daughters, Laura and Sarah, who still live in Houston.



These days, Mel enjoys pen-and-ink drawing. He often can be found rocking the windows of their house, while listening to “oldies.” Leslie likes to read, crochet, and cross-stitch, as well as spend time with their dogs. Together, they enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, and basking in the beauty of their new environment.

As to why they chose the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies, Mel and Leslie explain, “After visiting several churches in the area over the past years, we just felt that PCCR was a good fit for us.” And indeed it is. Mel and Leslie, we are so happy that you have chosen us as your church community!

Ballet For All

Walk into the Fellowship Hall on a Monday at 3:30 p.m. and at first glance, it looks like any ballet class. Young girls in black leotards with their hair in neat buns, standing at the barre as their teacher directs them through movements and exercises, classical music playing, book bags neatly arranged along the wall.

But look closely and you will see that, unlike in most ballet classes based in the Front Range, many of the participants are first or second generation immigrants. This is Ballet Renaissance's Protégé class, an invite-only, merit-based class for particularly talented young dancers in Estes Park. This class is offered at no cost to the students or their families.



Brianna Furnish and Radoslaw Kokoszka manage and direct Ballet Renaissance, a nonprofit organization committed to educating and inspiring youth and the community through the art of classical ballet. In addition to Protégé, Ballet Renaissance offers a tuition-free outreach program for Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County, an after school and summer childcare program primarily serving children of working-class parents.

Brianna and Radek teach ballet to these youngsters, most of whom have never danced and otherwise would not have the opportunity to enroll in any kind of class. Ballet Renaissance is quite literally teaching them the steps and movements that will pave their future, opening doors to another world. Some of these children find their passion and talent in ballet, and eventually end up enrolling in the Protégé program, further nourishing a future in dance.

Perhaps more telling than anything is the love and adoration that these young dancers have for their teachers. When my daughter was four and we had just moved to Estes Park, she wanted to be a ballerina so I enrolled her in the class for the youngest children. During their sessions, I would occasionally peek through the window and watch the tiny girls flock to their teacher between exercises, clamoring for hugs and to hold her hand. The teenagers and preteens are more reserved, but one look into their eyes reveals the utmost admiration and regard as they watch and listen to their mentors. And perhaps this is what young people need most of all: caring adults willing to help lead them to a brighter tomorrow.

Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies assists by giving Ballet Renaissance the space to practice. As Brianna says, "The church and fellowship hall are a beautiful warm place for this learning and sharing to take place."

Ballet Renaissance also offer adult ballet classes open to all, regardless of skill level. Please email balletren@balletren.org for further information.

—Meredith Ishida



The
Season of
Epiphany:
Welcoming
the New...



ABOVE: Presenting the new Elders and Deacons to the Congregation.

LEFT: Former Elders and Deacons participate in the age-old tradition of "laying on of hands," blessing the new officers.

BELOW: Session Clerk Barb Cole and Pastor Chris Davis welcome four new members into the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies.



And Celebrating Gifts



ABOVE: The Men's Group of the Chancel Choir, directed by Jeff Lindberg, performs a beautiful rendition of "We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace," by Appling.

RIGHT: Rich Dixon returns to lead the Chancel Choir in "O Bless the Lord, My Soul," by Walters. We are so grateful to have him back!



LEFT: Church members and guests enjoyed a special meal on January 22nd. The Glezen Dinner, organized by the Presbyterian Women's Group, has returned after a three year pandemic hiatus. Margaret Glezen, a long-time member, left in her will a trust fund to provide a Holiday dinner to the "singles" in the church that might not have any such holiday with friends. Today the Glezen Dinner has become a whole church potluck. We honor Margaret Glezen and long-time members as well as the singles in our church family.



Groups and Events

Annual Meeting – February 12, 2023

Annual Reports

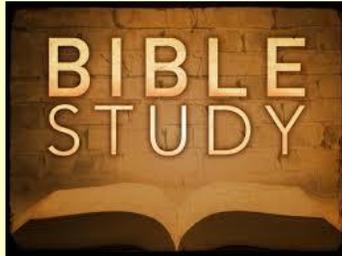
The Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies will be held on Sunday, February 12, following worship. Both paper and electronic copies of the Annual Report are available. Please contact the office if you have not yet received a copy. The meeting will be livestreamed so please plan to tune in online if you cannot be there in person.

Shrove Pancake Supper – February 21, 2023



PCCR will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21 at the church. Pancakes, ham, blueberries, and traditional King Cakes will be served from 4:30 until 6:00. There will be festive piano music to accompany the supper. This event is free, but it is a fundraiser for Crossroads Ministry, so your contributions are welcomed. Community members are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship as we anticipate the arrival of Lent.

Adult Sunday School



Adult Sunday School meets at 8:15 on Sunday mornings in the Lounge. We are presently doing Bible study that corresponds to the Lectionary. On February 12 we will begin an 8 week study of "The Messiah: the Texts Behind Handel's Masterpiece" and each class will contain the playing of one part of this wonderful musical story of our Lord's birth and death. Study books will be available for purchase for \$9.00 each but the book is not required to participate.

Signing (not Singing!) Choir

Sign Language Class meets each Monday at 4 p.m in the library. This is a very beginning level class; if you know where your fingers are, that is all you need! We are learning the manual alphabet used by many deaf persons worldwide and some very basic signs. No homework, no tests, no pressure! If you are interested, do this: close your right hand into a fist then shake it up and down 2 times. You just signed "yes!" and we will see you at class soon!

Journeys

No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome to be a part of the Church's Journeys gatherings.

Journeys sends out a weekly email with details about the plans for each Sunday. If you would like to be on this email list, let the Church office know or contact Jim Daugherty at: jk@daughertys.us



Journeys meets on Sunday mornings from 8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. **You have two options for participating in Journeys. You can attend the gathering in-person in the Church Library or connect in via Zoom using the link below.** Please note that this hybrid in-person/Zoom format will not be available on Feb 5.

Journeys schedule for February:

February 5	Why does Christianity insist on a God who is "all good"?	Evan Sansmark
February 12	The question of religious authority for each of us	Rick Taylor
February 19	Friendship	Louise Olson
February 26	Friendship	Louise Olson

To attend using Zoom, you can use the link below to join the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1ICVmtENnUxTctlUT09>

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



Celebrating Sabbath – PW Bible Study Monday, February 20, 2023 – Twelve Noon

On Monday, February 20 (Presidents Day), Mary Zollman will lead us in Lesson 6: Sabbath and Hospitality. Key Idea: Accepting the gift of Sabbath also involves a commitment to hospitality, because Sabbath demands to be shared.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend. We gather in the Church Library at 11:30 to share fellowship and refreshments. The lesson takes place from 12:00 to 1:00pm. Some people attend in person and some attend by Zoom. Here is the link for the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83477024693>

Meeting ID: 834 7702 4693 Passcode: PCCR

Dial in 1 719 359 4580

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time! - February 6, 2022

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time! The local Brownie/Junior Troop will be selling cookies after worship in the Narthex on Sunday, February 5. Cookies are \$5-\$6 per box, cash or card; gluten free and vegan varieties available. Come satisfy your sweet tooth or get a great gift for friends and family while supporting our local troop. Want free home delivery? Contact Meredith at the church office and girls will bring the cookies to your doorstep, at no extra charge.



Session Highlights ~ January 2022

- ◇ Welcomed new Elders Curtis Fox and Steve Wilson to their first meeting.
- ◇ Reviewed comments from members re/Christmas activities at PCCR.
- ◇ Heard from the Pastor Nominating committee that they are making good progress in the search for our new installed pastor.
- ◇ Elected Jack Boatman to serve as Church Treasurer for 2023.
- ◇ Elected Sue Yowell and Pat Waltermire to serve as our Commissioners to Presbytery meetings for 2023.
- ◇ Noted the anonymous gift of \$30,000 to PCCR. This will reduce the projected deficit for 2023 significantly.
- ◇ Rescheduled the February Session meeting for February 27, because of the Federal Presidents' Day holiday on the regular meeting date of February 20.

Deacon Highlights ~ January 2022

- ◇ New officers elected: Moderator Mimi Hardendorf, Scribe Bonnie Vanderveen.
- ◇ New deacons were welcomed: Chuck Bonza, Kelly Anderson and Deborah Webb.
- ◇ Deacons sent 6 cards.
- ◇ Two meals were delivered.
- ◇ Plans were finalized for a Memorial reception for Jay Smith on January 21, 2023 at 11 a.m.
- ◇ Plans continue for ministry to members living in Good Samaritan.

Ruling Elders

Class of 2023:

Jan Boatman, Dot Rohrbaugh, Sue Yowell

Class of 2024:

Jim Nussbaumer, Bill Solms, Pat Waltermire

Class of 2025:

Nancy Almond, Curtis Fox, Judy Schaffer, Steve Wilson

Clerk of Session: Barb Cole

Deacons

Class of 2023:

Sharyn Gartner, Carol Pearson, Tami Scace, Robert Sherrod

Class of 2024:

Bill Almond, Mimi Hardendorf, Diane Palmer, Bonnie Vanderveen

Class of 2025:

Kelley Anderson, Chuck Bonza, Deborah Webb

Financial Information December 2022

	December	Year to Date	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$60,609	\$364,273	\$366,081
Total Expenses	\$38,185	\$391,507	\$425,135
Net Total	\$22,424	-\$27,234	-\$59,054

February 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship, Communion 5:30pm-Oratorio Society-FH	 9:30am-Pastor Nominating Committee-Office 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:00pm-An Evening With Craig Childs-S	7 12:00pm-PEO Chapter-L 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm	8 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:45pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	9 10:00am-Mission Comm-L 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:30pm-Girl Scout Cadettes-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S	10 8:30am-EPNRC Board* 2:00pm-Worship and Music-L 3:30pm-Girl Scout Cadettes-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S	11 9:00am-Card Making Group-FH
12 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Annual Meeting of the Congreg. 5:30pm-Oratorio Society-FH	13 9:00am-Finance Committee 9:30am-Pastor Nominating Committee-Office 11:00am-Communications 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 3:40pm-Girl Scout Brownies-Lounge 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	14 ♥♥ Valentine's Day ♥♥ 10:00am-Building and Grounds-L 12:30pm-Personnel-L 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm 7:00pm-Deacons-L	15 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:45pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	16 10:00am-Staff Meeting 3:00pm-Columbarium-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S	17	18
19 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship 5:30pm-Oratorio Society-FH	20 President's Day Church Office Closed 9:30am-Pastor Nominating Committee-Office 11:30am-PW Bible Study-L 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L	21 Newsletter Deadline 12:00pm-PEO Chapter-L 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 4:30pm-Shrove Tuesday Supper-FH 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm	22 Lent Begins 12:00pm Ash Weds Service-S 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Oratorio Society Orchestra Rehearsal-S 6:45pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	23 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-S Orchestra Rehearsal-S	24 9:30am-Merry Marthas-FH 7:00pm-Oratorio Society Orchestra Concert-S	25 2:00pm-Oratorio Society Orchestra Concert-S
26 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am-Journeys Class-L 10:00am-Worship	27 9:30am-Pastor Nominating Committee-L 9:30am-Membership and Hospitality-FH 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 3:00pm-Girl Scout Daisies* 4:00pm-Sign Choir-L 6:30pm-Session-L	28 2:00pm-Ballet Class-FH 5:00pm-EVICS Mom's* 6:30pm-Chamber Singers-Music Rm				

Note: Calendar events subject to change
*Downstairs Room 6

Ash Wednesday

Last week on the phone I'm telling a man
Why he shouldn't take his children
Out on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park this summer. The wetter better
Side that is now the burned, blacker side. Phrases arise, words like *hot, barren*
and *emotionally draining*.

Hard on the heart. I wait.

Well, he answers, *that is why I want to bring them.*

I want them to understand.

His heart is good, his wisdom strong. I leave his permit intact.

Distance and Difficulty Discussed.

And now I'm above Beaver Meadows following the tracks

Of the coyote, the moose. No humans

Out here: winter closes the land to all but those who know the trails by heart.

Everything is the same and yet completely different; every contour

Of the hillside exposed. There is that bend of trail I once knew;

There is the outcropping I loved.

I retrace the steps of the fire. Between patches of snow, I'm searching the blackened soil

For consolation. I want this land to tell me that it still lives.

But nothing. Every tree is scorched, nothing has regrown,

The smell of smoke is thick, though these charred branches

Are four months cold. I too am numb; I can't grieve for these trees, these rocks, these lives.

Until I remember the

Father. I see him leading his young daughters

Up the burned Tonahutu. This, only more; ten thousand

Small footprints among the ash. I see his face

As he turns to them, saying without words, *this is what death looks like.*

This is what loss looks like.

This is how you grieve.

And didn't we all, don't we all need someone

Walking before us,

Signifying with their presence that this half

Of life is acceptable too?

That there's nothing wrong with pain

Or losing everything,

That there is nothing wrong, even with death.

This is real. It's about what died

In the fire, out there

And inside of us.

This is about Covid and all that we lost this year.

This is about what was taken in our childhood

And in those moments when we finally grew up.

I don't know all of your stories, but from the cues

You have given,

I know we carry a lot of loss among us.

We also carry a lot of wisdom. Joy.

Walk in the ashes of your life.

Meredith Ishida, February 2021