



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

July 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 7

Bruce Brackman

1954-2024





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 August Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, July 16. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

July 7 — 10:00 am, Communion: Chancel Choir

July 14 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir “Cry Out and Shout”

July 21 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir “How Can I Keep from Singing”

July 28 — 10:00 am: Men’s Quartet

**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.

July 2024

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Dear Friends,

Summer is here! Summer is a good time to read stories. When I was in primary school, my best friend and I looked forward to the yearly Summer Reading program at the City Library. I remember reading T.S. Elliot's books about cats, Judy Blume's stories and Little House on the Prairie series. In honor of the summer story reading, I want to invite you all to read four of our short stories that are in our Bible.

Did you know that our scripture contains short stories? Because we look at the Bible as our religious text, we often forget that the scriptures contain a variety of different types of literature. It contains poetry, letters, histories, origin stories, apocalyptic tales, law tables and genealogies. And, it also contains short stories, and this July, we will look at four of them: Esther, Job, Jonah and Ruth. While these stories are likely about real people in scripture, I think their inclusion in scripture is not about

providing biographical detail but rather to hold up their human experience. The truth of these stories is not in a factual retelling of events but in the challenges that each encounters. These books remind us that we can learn a great deal about the human condition from the stories we tell. Instead of chopping these stories into individual verses, we will look at one book, one story each Sunday and ask ourselves the following questions: Why is this story in the Bible? What does it tell us about God? What does it tell us about the human condition? And How does it inform us as part of our story? I think we will all enjoy this whirlwind tour of these great stories of our faith, and I believe the tour will help us relate to these stories from so long ago.



July 7 Esther "From sadness to joy"

July 14 Job 19:25 "I know that my Redeemer lives."

July 21 Jonah 4:4 "Is it right for you to be angry?"

July 28 Ruth 1:16 "Where you go I will go"

In addition to Sunday mornings, we will be looking at these in greater depth in Wednesday Bible Study starting July 10 at noon. Not only will we dig into some of the great nuances of these stories, but we will also reflect on story in our own lives and evaluate how they shape our values.

Friends, I am looking forward to Summer Stories! I hope you are too!

Grace and peace,
Christine

Worship June 2024



Clockwise: Guest preacher Rev. Craig Sumeay & wife Lynn; Pastor Christine Dempsey serving communion; Guest minister The Rev. Dr. Lyle Vander Broek; Pianist Verlene Thorp; Chancel Choir; Jim & Carol Nussbaumer, & Jeanne Davis enjoying the ice cream social



We are saddened at the loss of Pastor Bruce, who passed from this world on June 8, 2024 from a massive heart attack. Pastor Bruce was our Good Shepherd and “unofficial interim pastor” through trying times, getting us through COVID and then preparing us to welcome our new pastor, Christine. He loved this church and the congregation, who always made him feel welcome. Our friend will be greatly missed.

We will have the opportunity to share a final farewell and pay our respects to his family at his memorial service on Sunday, July 28th at 2:00pm, to be held in the sanctuary of Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies.



If you have prayer requests you'd like to share with the congregation, please contact Pastor Christine at pastor@pccrusa.org, or call 970-586-4404 (church).



One of the organizations PCCR's Mission Committee supports (using your gifts!) is Habitat for Humanity. Here are some excerpts from a recent thank-you letter from them.

“Your gift...helps build homes across the St. Vrain Valley, in Estes Park and supports our on-going home repair program in the Carbon Valley. We have big plans for 2024, beginning with the construction of 6 duplexes in Longmont...Later in the year we'll begin construction of 5 single family homes on Raven Avenue in Estes Park. ...How fast we build depends on how many volunteers join us! Visit www.stvrainhabitat.org to see where we need help and to sign up for a shift.”

Frontera de Cristo

Cultivating Relationships
and Understanding
Across Borders

Dear friends,

"Wouldn't releasing so many people a day be seen as a burden to your community?" asked Nathan, a reporter from The Globe and Mail, while sitting on the FDC porch. He had come to seeking to gauge community reaction to the Biden Administration's recent executive action to increase expulsions into Agua Prieta and other Mexican border communities.

Implicit in the question is that vulnerable families, men, women, and children who are fleeing extreme violence, or poverty, or are seeking to be reunited with family in the US, are burdens, as opposed to human beings created in the divine image, beloved by God. What the question fails to capture is that there will an extra burden on the already vulnerable population being returned.

On Friday, we had lunch with a delegation from St. Ignatius High School (San Francisco) at the Douglas Welcome Center which, in 6 months, has welcomed 8,500 men, women, and children who were released by Border Patrol before the recent executive order. Last night we celebrated at CAME, which has provided shelter and food for thousands of people in transit over last 24 years. On June 30, we will celebrate the 18th anniversary of the Migrant Resource Center, which has welcomed more than 200,000 men, women, and children who have been expelled from the US.

We are grateful to be a part of a bi-national community that chooses welcome and rejects labeling vulnerable populations as "burdens". We are grateful to be a part of a bi-national community who seek to live out the values of Jesus and rejects the temptation to respond in fear when confronted with the suffering of the world.

We are grateful for you whose prayers, words of encouragement and support strengthen our community of welcome.

Peace,

Miriam Maldonado Escobar and Mark Adams

PC(USA) Mission Co-workers serving with Frontera de Cristo

Just Coffee /Cafe Justo

WHY?

To follow up on why our church supports Café Justo by selling their coffee at cost, here's a short extract from an article entitled *Coffee Justice in Mexico*, by Amy Frykholm, that was published in the *Christian Century* for June, 2024. The full article is worth reading and can be found here:

<https://www.christiancentury.org/issue/june-2024>

The United States is the world's number one consumer of coffee. It imports 22 percent of the world's coffee. Coffee grows in some of the world's poorest countries and then flows, almost as fast as oil, to some of the world's richest countries. Awakening to this reality and the deep history of colonialism and exploitation rooted in coffee, the fair-trade movement has tried to get the message out: how you buy your coffee, how it is grown, and who gets the profit are matters of vital importance. Fair trade has had a small impact on the coffee industry as a whole—it accounts for less than 5 percent of a \$14 billion industry—but it has had a strong impact in making some US consumers aware that the origin of their beloved coffee is marred by economic and environmental problems.

Café Justo, however, has gone further, diagnosing the problems that exist even with fair trade coffee and coming up with an alternative model. Whereas the fair-trade model pays farmers a guaranteed price for their crops, Café Justo keeps the entire means of production in the hands of farmers, from the moment of planting to the moment the consumer enjoys a cup of coffee. They call this “vertically integrated direct trade.” Once you know that this experience is possible—that you can connect your coffee drinking rituals in a direct way to the farmers who grew the bean, the land on which it grew, and the people who roast the bean—it is pretty hard to say no. It is easy not to care about those things if you have no real way to connect them. But once you know you can? There is something almost irresistible about that.

Need Coffee?

Purchase your favorite coffee for only \$12 a pound in ground or beans, regular, decaf, or half-regular/half-decaf. Call or text Lisa Plaut, on behalf of Mission and Outreach Committee, at 214-766-9876 to arrange for pick-up or delivery.

Groups and Events



SUMMER PICNIC

*Join us for fun, food,
and fellowship!*

**Sunday, July 14, 2024
11:00 a.m.**

**You are invited to our All-Church Family Summer Picnic
to be held on our church patio and Fellowship Hall!**

The Hospitality Committee will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, water, and paper supplies. If you would like anything else to drink, please bring your own.

Dress casually for church and bring your food to the church kitchen.
The picnic begins immediately after worship.

Bring a potluck dish to share using the suggested list below:



- A through H Salads
- I through N Baked beans or other vegetable dishes
- O through T Desserts
- U through Z Miscellaneous (chips, etc.)



Students from Rocky Ridge Music Center will perform in concert on Thursday, July 11th at 3:30pm in our Sanctuary. Rocky Ridge Music Center provides residential summer music programs for students of all ages.

Donations toward scholarships will be accepted.

Choir Notes:

It is great having our summer choir people back. They are family members who have just been

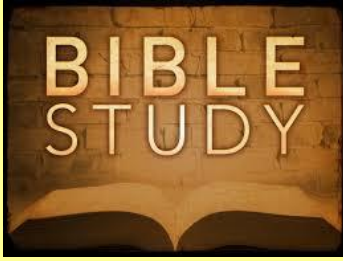


gone for a while. Yes, I said "family members" because the choir is a family of faith, and it is an open and welcoming family to anyone who likes to sing; especially those summer people who sing in a choir back home. Come join us. Rehearsals are every Thursday (except for July 4th) at 6:30 pm in the choir room here at church. See you there!

Rich Dixon, Chancel Choir Director



Adult Sunday School



Adult Bible Study continues with the study of the Book of Acts during July. This video series is hosted by Professor Pichas Shir of the Israel Bible Institute, an organization of Christ-believing Jews and provides a fresh look at familiar Scriptures.

July 7: Messiah the Cornerstone

Forbidding the Name of Jesus

July 14: Apostolic Prayer for Strength

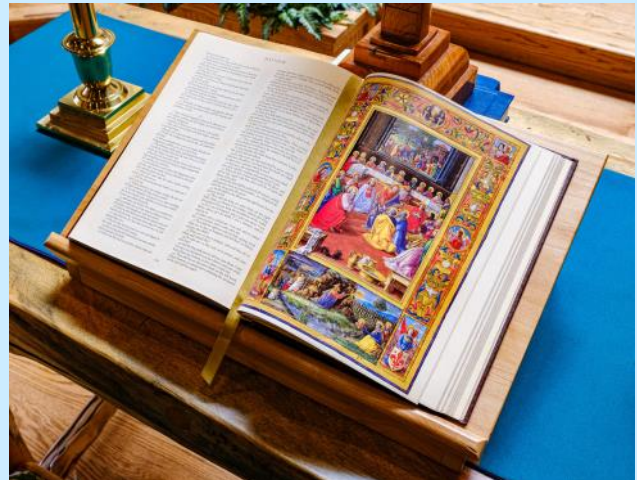
July 21: All Things Were Common

July 28: TBD (We will decide on the program for class up to September)

All are welcome to join us in the Lounge at 8:15 each Sunday morning. We finish in time for choir members to go to practice and all others to enjoy some pre-worship coffee and social time.

Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine

Join Pastor Christine as Bible Study returns beginning Wednesday, July 10th at noon in the Library. Come explore in greater depth the stories from Esther, Job, Jonah and Ruth. All are welcome!



Journeys

Journeys meets Sunday mornings in the church library. Gathering begins at 8:15 a.m., with the program starting at 8:30. The topic for July 7 is Soul Food - *The Seven Gateways of Spiritual Experience*, Scott Robbins, leader. Journeys will begin a seven-week summer break on July 14.

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=UG50Wk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTCtIU09>

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

Session Highlights ~ June 17, 2024

- ◇ Scheduled services for Rev. Bruce Brackman for July 28, 2024 here at PCCR.
- ◇ Reviewed the policy for Animals on Church Premises.
- ◇ Conducted a brainstorming session for how to build membership.
- ◇ Approved the formation of a Task Force to create a plan for the future of the Meditation Trail, its design, implementation and maintenance.
- ◇ Approved the addition of Chuck Bonza to the Building and Grounds Committee.
- ◇ Noted that funds for the improvement of the lower driveway will come from the Foundation.
- ◇ Scheduled the All Church Picnic for July 14.
- ◇ Scheduled an Inquiry Class for potential new members for July 21.
- ◇ Noted that \$200+ was collected for Craig Sumey's mission work.
- ◇ Welcomed Brenda Dixon to her first day of work as our new Office Administrator.

Save
the
Date!

Colorado Rockies Faith Day! - Sunday, August 11

On Sunday, August 11, after worship, you are invited to join your fellow PCCR members and friends for a trip to Coors Stadium to see the Rockies play the Braves. Various churches across the state will be participating in this annual opportunity for fun and Fellowship. Tickets are \$32 per person and parking is approximately \$26 per vehicle; we will meet at PCCR and carpool. If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the office.



Financial Information May 2024

	May	Jan-May	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$201,816	\$315,246	\$131,327
Total Expenses	\$190,361	\$337,305	\$157,654
Net Total	\$11,455	-\$22,059	-\$26,327

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

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1pm Membership Committee -L	2 11:45am AA Group* 2pm Summer Residents Assn-L 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	3 12pm EPNRC Meeting 1pm The Good Grief Group - Lounge	4 11:45am AA Group* 5pm EVICS* 6:30pm Chancel Choir-Music Rm	5	6
7 8:15am Adult Sunday School-Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10am Worship	8	9 10am Building & Grounds-L 11:45am AA Group* 1pm Personnel Committee-L 3pm Worship & Music 4:30pm Deacons-L 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	10 10:30am Mission & Outreach Committee - L 12pm Bible Study	11 8:30am EPNRC Board Meeting* 10am Staff Meeting 11:45am AA Group* 1pm Foundation-L 3:30pm Rocky Ridge Music Center Concert-S 6:30pm Chancel Choir-Music Rm	12	13 9am Picnic set up-FH 9:30am Card-Making Group-FH
14 8:15am Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10am Worship 11am All-Church Picnic 1pm Nebraska Picnic-FH	15 6:30pm Session-L	16 Newsletter Deadline 11:45am AA Group* 2pm Summer Residents Assn-L 4pm Stephen Ministers-L 6pm Malawi Presentation-FH 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	17 8am EPNRC Workshop-FH 12pm Bible Study 1pm The Good Grief Group - Lounge	18 11:45am AA Group* 3pm Columbarium Committee-L 5pm EVICS-Rm 6 + Nursery 6:30pm Chancel Choir-Music Rm	19 8am Organ Practice-S	20
21 8:15am-Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10am-Worship 11am Membership Information Discussion	22 4:30pm Grace and Grub-FH	23 11:45am AA Group* 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study*	24 8am EPNRC Workshop-FH 12pm Bible Study	25 10am Staff Meeting 11:45am AA Group* 6:30pm Chancel Choir-Music Rm	26 8am Organ Practice-S 9:30am Merry Marthas-FH	27 12pm Estes Park Museum-Piano Concert - S
28 8:15am Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10am Worship	29 9:30am Hospitality-L	30 11:45am AA Group* 2pm Summer Residents Assn-L 6:45pm Hispanic Women's Bible Study-L	31 12pm Bible Study			
					*Downstairs Room 6	

