



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

September 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 9





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 October Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, September 17. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

September 1 — 10:00 am, Communion: Guest Minister Rev. Dr. Lyle Vanderbroek

September 8 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir

September 15 — 10:00 am: Scottish Heritage Sunday

September 22 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir

1:00 pm: Blessing of the Animals

September 29 — 10:00am: Members & Memories

**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".

Time for a New Church Directory!

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 as soon as possible (970-586-4404 or office@pccrusa.org) if you have any changes to your contact information. Thanks!

**The beginning of true wisdom is asking the questions for which there are no answers.
—Harrell Beck**

September 2024

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

“Rejoice in the Lord always, say Rejoice” Philippians 4:4

I always loved September. It is the birthday month for mother and my grandmother, and I always looked forward to the celebration, a special tea party where we used the fancy cups and saucers that belonged to my grandmother. Each set had a different flower on it representing the months of the year. I always looked for my birthday flower, June. Using it at the party made me feel included. The event marked a time of sharing together and remembering family stories. What I loved most about these gatherings were the stories about how my grandmother received the plates. This was the story about family, about her big sisters, who gave her only one piece a year. This was all that they could afford. The cups and plates were gifts from the heart, gifts that encouraged gathering and reflected sacrifice.

Just as my aunts gave these place settings from their hearts, we too are called to give to the church from our hearts. For most of our lives, we think of the times we give in terms of bills, fees, or duty. The church is different, for when we give to the church it is out of love and gratitude. It reminds me of the occasion of my grandmother’s birthday where the giving of the gift was an opportunity to celebrate and as time went on, the gifts turned from individual items into place settings of welcome and remembrance. The gifts turned into an occasion for gathering and telling stories. My aunts knew that in giving from their hearts they were building our family.

This September and October, we will be focusing on stewardship in our church, and indeed it is a time for gratitude. As you plan your giving this year, think about this family, think about the stories of laughter and tears, about plates of welcome that invite others to join us, and about how we are called to “Rejoice in the Lord.”

In celebration and gratitude, come and worship during September.

September 15: Scottish Heritage Sunday with Bagpipes and plaid.

September 22: Gratitude and Grace

1:00 Blessing of the Animals – outdoor chapel

Sept 29: Members and Memories

Celebration of long-time members!

Oct 6: World Communion Sunday

Oct. 13: Harvest Festival

Let’s Celebrate!

Grace and peace,
Christine



Worship in August



Guest substitute organist, Jill Hunt



Welcome New Members!



Chancel Choir with guest soloist Scott Anderson and cellist Rich Woessner

Colorado Rockies fans!



Pie Social 2024



Thank you...

Dear Pastor Christine and members of PCCR, I can't thank you enough for your care and concern. The service for Bruce's Celebration was so special & meaningful. I so appreciate the beautiful music, the offer of your worship space and the wonderful ecumenical gathering. It was exactly as Bruce would have wanted. He truly loved PCCR.

Sincerely,
Sallie Brackman

My dear family—



If you are sick or in the hospital, I do not know unless someone tells me. Because of HIPPA regulations, the hospital no longer lets me know if you are a patient there. Please let someone know so that we here at the church can care for you.

-Pastor Christine

Is peace on earth possible?

PCUSA certainly thinks so! Through its annual Peace & Global Witness Special Offering, the church seeks to "sow the seeds of peace" locally, nationally and globally. We are encouraged to work together as congregants to be peacemakers and pursue justice and the common good that Christ wants for everyone. After all, peacemaking is key to the Gospel and the mission of the church. Gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering will offer solutions for more of God's people to live in freedom and dignity.



50% of this offering supports Presbyterians seeking reconciliation around the world.

25% of this offering goes regionally to Presbytery and Synod.

25% of this offering stays with PCCR to directly support local efforts to bring peace and justice to Estes Park

Your Mission and Outreach Committee has selected Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership (EVRJP) as this year's local offering recipient. EVRJP helps build and repair relationships-- whether working to repair the harm of a crime, bringing parties together to work out sustainable solutions, or providing proactive support to build community connections and promote positive decision-making. It is a local peace-making organization that offers justice-based programs with courts and police, school-based programs, community mediation, and community conversations with the Estes Valley Library. EVRJP is the perfect group to receive 25% of our collection.

Let's help our denomination and EVRJP fulfill the prayer, "God of all Creation, bring Justice and Peace to our World." Amen.

The Mission and Outreach Committee recently received this letter from Chenoa Stock, one of the mission co-workers supported by PCCR. Chenoa works in Peru, but recently has been in the States and doing her work virtually. She seems to have enjoyed her time on the ground recently with the people of Peru!

Dear Community Presbyterian Church of the Rockies,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying your summer. I still can't believe August is almost here! I write to send my deepest gratitude for your continued and long-term support of our partners' ministries that I accompany in Peru. I, thankfully, spent some time in Peru this month, reconnecting with those partners and learning more about those ministries.

I visited the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP)'s Sicuani Seminary, whose students were on winter recess; but where the Director, Pastor Santiago Condori, and the professors, continue to reflect on how to improve the seminary campus and classroom experience. They have plans to continue the ongoing construction of the boys' dormitory and are hoping to add one more floor to that building. They are also dreaming of building a multi-use auditorium where they can hold graduations and other denominational events throughout the year, without worrying about the wind or rain ruining or blowing away the tarp they currently use. They are an inspirational group – even with their minimal resources, they were able to raise money for some of these projects and continue to pray and search for funding for the auditorium.



I also traveled with a visiting youth delegation and met with a few Joining Hands partners. We traveled to La Oroya in the mountains to meet with the youth environmental committee of Filomena Tomaira Pacsi. We learned from them about the ongoing environmental issues there, due to heavy metal contamination. We also worked alongside their youth to plant trees and paint a mural at their local school.

We then went from the mountains to the coast to learn about the most contaminated river in South America, the Chillón River, in the city of Callao. We met with partners who live in Marquez, a coastal village that is affected by the industrial and human pollution of the Chillón River, and also by the waste of the Pacific Ocean. They are working with local authorities and national allies to advocate for laws that protect the waters and their health.

It was a wonderful time to hear directly from our partners and have them remind me how much your support and prayers mean to them as well. So thank you from all of us for your faithful commitment to God's inspiring ministry through our partners in Peru.

Peace and blessings,
Chenoa



Just Coffee /Cafe Justo

WHY?

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the coffee from Café Justo a medium or a dark roast?

The roast refers to the amount of time the beans spend in the roaster. Everybody seems to ask for a dark roast coffee, and in response, everything we order from Café Justo is dark roasted for both the Robusta and Arabica beans. Also, a dark roast results in less caffeine in the coffee than does a medium roast.

What's the difference between Robusta and Arabica?

Robusta beans produce a stronger and more bitter flavor, with more caffeine than Arabica. Robusta coffee has a little less than twice the caffeine of Arabica. Arabica is sweeter and smoother. The coffee served in Fellowship Hall on Sundays is brewed from the Arabica bean. Arabica is also used for decaffeinated coffee. Both the ½ and ½ and fully decaf coffee that we sell is made from the Arabica beans.

An Opportunity to Visit Frontera de Cristo

Frontera de Cristo is the US/Mexico border ministry that helped establish Café Justo. Frontera de Cristo celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, and in October will host a weekend of fellowship, education and ministry in Agua Prieta, on the Arizona – Sonora border. This is where Café Justo has its coffee roasting operation.

In 2019, Kent and Betty Meyer along with Dave Thomas went to Agua Prieta for a similar weekend workshop offered by Frontera de Cristo, entitled *Responding to an Exodus: Gospel Hospitality and Empire*. Betty writes this about her 'wonderful' trip: "While there, we visited Café Justo roastery and packaging plant, from where our Sunday morning coffee is shipped. A celebratory feast with entertainment was served one night in the street between Café Justo and the local Presbyterian Church. We ate another meal at the Migrant Resource Center, worshipped at the border wall and in a couple of Mexican churches. We learned a lot about the migrant crisis and what we followers of Christ can do about it. It was quite educational and meaningful. I recommend going and seeing for yourself what is happening at the border."

The upcoming Frontera de Cristo anniversary celebration offers this opportunity. See Lisa Plaut for more information.

Groups and Events

Scottish Heritage Sunday September 15th

Come for a fun, lively service known as Kirkin' o' the Tartans. This Scottish-style service, complete with bagpipes, will honor our collective heritage. You are invited to "become a Scot" for the day and create your own Tartan out of paper or cloth to participate in the "Kirkin' o' the Tartans!"



Members and Memories

On **September 29th** we will be having a Members and Memories service honoring long-time members and friends. We will celebrate with a recognition in service along with a cake, pictures and fellowship.



Blessing of the Animals September 22nd



On Sunday, September 22nd at 1:00pm, PCCR will offer a Blessing of the Animals at the church's outdoor chapel along the Mediation Trail. Pastor Christine will conduct this service to include pet family members in a celebration of God's love for all his creation.

All pet animals—dogs, cats, horses, llamas, birds—are welcome to receive individual blessing as witness to our dependence on other creatures and our stewardship responsibility for their care. As Psalm 36:6 proclaims "Thy righteousness is like the mountains of God...man and beast thou savest, O Lord."

Harvest Festival: Let's give thanks for our blessings.



The Hospitality Committee invites everyone to attend our annual Harvest Festival Soup Luncheon after worship on **Sunday, October 13 at 11:00am**. Each PCCR family is asked to bring a crock pot of hot soup to the Fellowship

PW Brunch for All Women of the Church
September 9 – 11:30 a.m.



On September 9, all women of the church are invited to a brunch in Fellowship Hall starting at 11:30 a.m., hosted by the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women. The Coordinating Team will provide the meal, so all you need to do is come and enjoy fellowship with other women of the church. Included with the brunch will be the introduction to the Bible study for 2024-25, titled *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. In the April newsletter, Pastor Christine introduced our congregation to a series of programs called Creation Care by reminding us that, "our theology is one that demands us to be good stewards of the earth, to care for all of God's creatures and to be mindful of our resources." That was a wonderful introduction to this year's important and timely study. Pat Waltermire will be presenting an overview of the Bible study after brunch. The Bible study books will be available at the meeting for \$10 each. This year we have a couple large print editions available in addition to the regular study books. The study books are also available in the church office. This is a great opportunity to be in fellowship with other women of the church. We would love to have you join us!

PW Bible Study – September 16, 2024 *Let Justice Roll Down*

After our introduction to the new Bible study, *Let Justice Roll Down*, at the luncheon Monday, September 9, Presbyterian Women will meet for their first circle meeting the following Monday, September 16 in the church library. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for a brief social time, with the lesson beginning at 12 noon. Because the meeting occurs during the lunch hour, you are welcome to bring a sack lunch to eat during the meeting. The PW Circle meets each month, from September through May on the third Monday of the month. In September, Pat Waltermire will lead us through lesson one titled "Environmental Justice" based on passages from Ezekiel. In the introduction to the study the author states, "We are called to care for creation because the earth and its members belong to God, but also, crucially, because a healthy creation sustains human well-being." We hope you can join us for this timely study.

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.

Journeys will conclude its summer break and begin meeting on Sunday, September 8. 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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1ICVmtENnUxTCtIU09>
Meeting ID: 845 741 2756 and Passcode: 80517 (only if necessary)

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

Adult Sunday School



Have you ever wondered how the church developed within the context of the Roman Empire? Questioned why we have so many denominations? Wondered about the origins of our liturgy? If so, come and join us at 8:30am in the lounge in the months of September and October for an overview of Church history taught by Pastor Christine.

September 8: History as fact? History as Memory?

We will examine why writing about the Early Church and why the “history” of the Early Church is hard to reconstruct.

September 15: “The Underground Church” The Early Church during an age of Persecution

We discuss how the church was able to grow even though the Roman leadership would often persecute Christians. What promises did hold that made it unique and made it grow?

September 22: The Official Church and the Decline of the Roman Empire

The church becomes official under the Emperor Theodosius (yes, not Constantine), and we will look at how the church was able to sustain identity and organization in the wake of a deteriorating Roman Empire.

September 29: no class (Pastor Christine will be joining the Journeys class in a discussion of the Lord’s Supper.

October 6: Eastern Church/Western Church

As the Roman Empire fell, the former territory divided into the feudal kingdoms of western Europe and the Byzantine Empire in the East. We will study the schism in the church in 1054 that led to Western Christendom and the Eastern Orthodox tradition.

October 20: The Medieval Church

Since our heritage as Presbyterians lies in the Western Church, we will look at the development of the church during the Middle Ages. We will tackle the Crusades, the Inquisition and even the Muslim/Christian conflict in what is now Spain.

October 27: The Protestant Reformation

Our last class of this series will focus on the protestant Reformation and a look at the reasons why and how the Medieval church would split into numerous denominations.



Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine

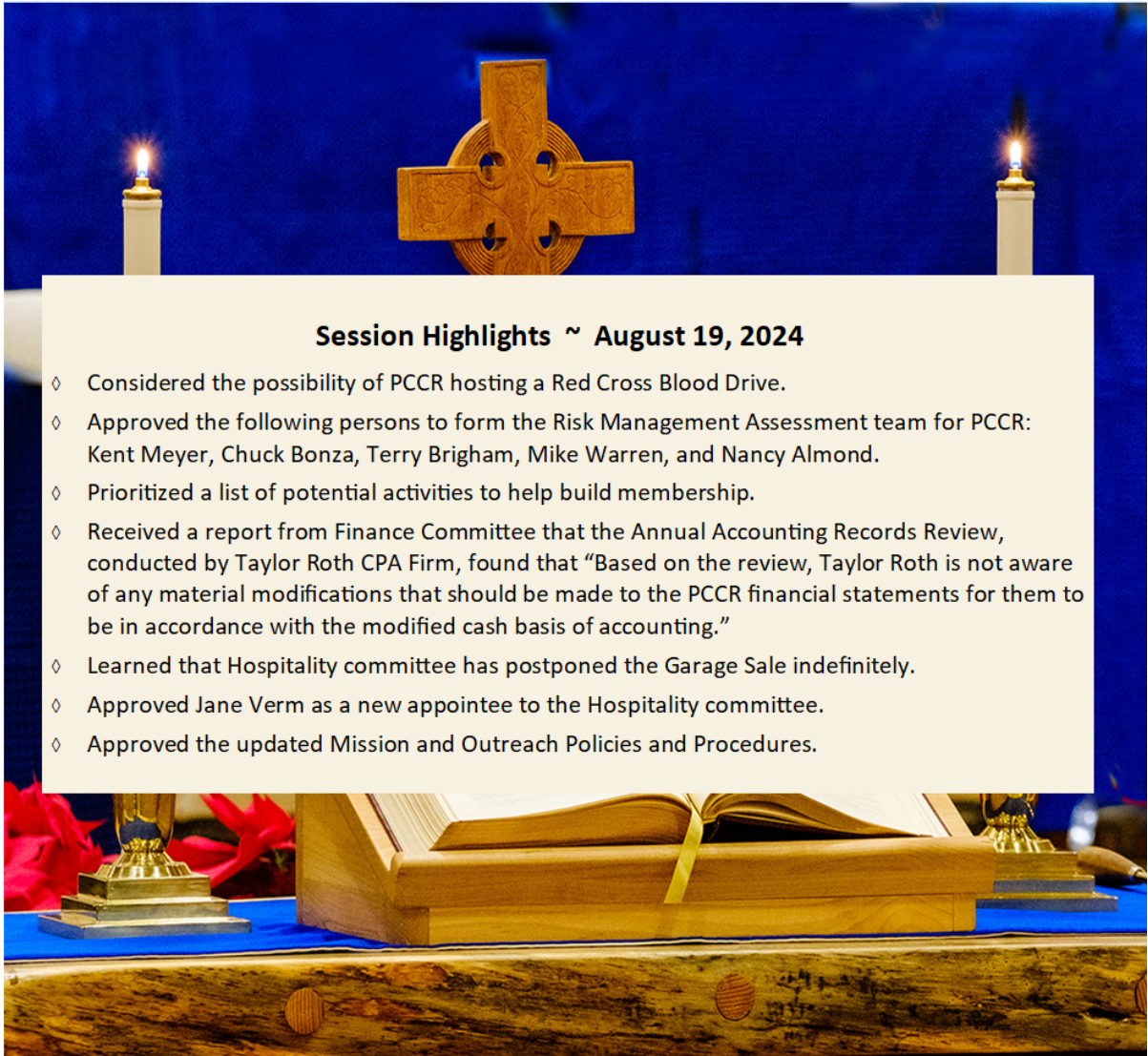
Wednesday Bible Study will continue on the Life of Paul.

September 4: The Jerusalem Council—Galatians 2-4; Acts 15:1-35, Romans 3:21-8:39

September 11: Paul’s First Missionary Journey—Acts 15:40-18:22

September 18: Paul’s First Missionary Journey—Acts 18:23-21:14; 1 Corinthians; 3-6 Galatians;
Romans 15:22-23

September 25: Arrested in Jerusalem and Imprisoned in Caesarea—Acts 21:15-26:32; Romans 9-11;
1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11e



Session Highlights ~ August 19, 2024

- ◇ Considered the possibility of PCCR hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive.
- ◇ Approved the following persons to form the Risk Management Assessment team for PCCR: Kent Meyer, Chuck Bonza, Terry Brigham, Mike Warren, and Nancy Almond.
- ◇ Prioritized a list of potential activities to help build membership.
- ◇ Received a report from Finance Committee that the Annual Accounting Records Review, conducted by Taylor Roth CPA Firm, found that “Based on the review, Taylor Roth is not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the PCCR financial statements for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.”
- ◇ Learned that Hospitality committee has postponed the Garage Sale indefinitely.
- ◇ Approved Jane Verm as a new appointee to the Hospitality committee.
- ◇ Approved the updated Mission and Outreach Policies and Procedures.

Financial Information July 2024			
	July	Jan-Jul	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$32,478	\$382,392	\$229,822
Total Expenses	\$31,097	\$416,024	\$275,894
Net Total	\$1,381	-\$33,632	-\$46,072

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

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 10:00am Worship	2 1:00pm Membership Committee -L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	3 11:45am AA Group-Rm 6 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	4 8:00am Estes Nonprofit Network -FH 12:00pm Estes Nonprofit Network -Rm 6 12:00pm Bible Study -L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group-Lounge 3:00pm GST 70449 - Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Belts - FH	5 9:00am All Staff Meeting -L 11:45am AA Group -Rm 6 4:00pm Chancel Belts -FH 5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir -MR 7:30pm Troop 184 - Rm 6	6 All Day Troop 184 - Rm 6 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance -FH	7 All Day Troop 184 - Rm 6 12:30pm EP Mountain Fairways HOA -FH
8 8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys -L 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal -FH	9 9:00am Meditation Trail Task Force -L 9:30am Finance Committee -Office 11:00am PW/Luncheon -FH 11:00am Communications -L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:00pm Oratorio Chorus -S	10 10:00am Building & Grounds -L 11:45am AA Group - Rm6 1:00pm Personnel Committee -L 3:00pm Worship & Music -L 4:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers -MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study	11 10:30am Mission & Outreach Committee -L 12:00pm Bible Study -L 3:00pm GST 70449 -Rm 6 4:30pm Joyful Belts -FH	12 8:30am EPNRC Board Mtg -Rm 6 9:30am COCO Mtg -L 11:45am AA Group -Rm 6 1:30pm Risk Mtg Assessment Team -Office 3:00pm Journeys Inner Work Group -L 4:00pm Chancel Belts -FH 5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir -MR	13 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance -FH	14 9:30am Card Making Group -FH 1:30pm Thomas Harcock Wedding -S
15 8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys -L 10:00am Worship-Scottish Heritage Sunday Crossroads Donations 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal -FH	16 11:00am Presbyterian Women -L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance -FH 6:00pm Oratorio Chorus -S 6:30pm Session -L	17 Newsletter Deadline 11:45am AA Group -Rm 6 4:00pm Stephen Ministers -L 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers -MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	18 8:00am Estes Nonprofit Network -FH 12:00pm Bible Study -L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge 3:00pm GST 70449 -Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Belts -FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale -FH	19 11:45am AA Group -Rm 6 3:00pm Columbanum Committee -L 4:00pm Chancel Belts -FH 5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir -MR	20 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance -FH	21
22 8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys -L 10:00am Worship 1:00pm Blessing of the Animals-Outdoor Chapel 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal -FH	23 4:30pm Grace and Grub 6:00pm Oratorio Chorus -S	24 11:45am AA Group -Rm 6 5:30pm The Learning Place Family Cafe 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers -MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	25 12:00pm Bible Study -L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge 3:00pm GST 70449 -Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Belts -FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale -FH	26 11:45am AA Group -Rm 6 4:00pm Chancel Belts -FH 6:30pm Chancel Choir -MR	27 9:30am Merry Martinis -FH 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance -FH	28
29 8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys -L 10:00am Worship-Members & Memories 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal -FH	30 9:30am Hospitality -L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance -FH 6:00pm Oratorio Chorus					