



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

October 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 10





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 November Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, October 15**. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule



Worship in the Sanctuary:

October 6 — 10:00 am: World Communion Sunday
Men's Ensemble; Chancel Bells

October 13 — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir ; guest organist Jill Hunt
Harvest Festival & Soup Luncheon

October 20 — 10:00 am: Joyful Bells

October 27 — 10:00 am: Reformation Sunday
Chancel Choir with special guest,
The Highland Brass

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".

JUST A LITTLE Reminder

If you have already made a pledge, thank you for your continued support. If you have not yet decided on your pledge, take a moment to reflect on the importance of this Church to you, your family, friends, and the community.

Thank you for your support for the ministry of our Church.

*Collection date for all pledge cards is
Sunday, October 13th.*

October 2024

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Dear friends,

I grew up watching a lot of football; after all, I am a baby sister with two big brothers and football was an important part of our lives. I went to flag football games, I participated in the neighborhood street “ball,” I cheered for my brother-the leading I-back to victory in high school, and had season tickets to the Huskers when I was in grad school. I like a lot of things about a football game, but one of the parts of that I like is watching the people behind the scenes. In particular, I love watching the chain gang and their running up and down the field, placing of the chains, changing the down marker. When I was in high school, the chain gang would run to the far end of the field, where their faces were hidden by the dark- just out of the Friday night lights. They were so integral to the game, and yet so forgotten.



The reality is that I am fascinated with the “behind the scenes”, the people, the rehearsals and the planning that make stuff happen. They are forgotten and left out of our thanks. I remember a television show that aired briefly that featured “behind the scenes” action, but it never made it past one or two episodes. In many cases, our appreciation is saved for the end product. The problem, of course, is that we tend to be thankful for the finished product more than the people that created it. Our thanks become pretty shallow.

Friends, today, I want to make sure that we don’t overlook each other and all the work that is done here at the church. All of you are important to our success, and for you I give thanks. Have you ever watched the magic of putting together an event for fellowship? Or how about the after-hours work to make the building safe for Sunday morning? Or the hours of rehearsal put in by our musicians? Or the round of emails recruiting ushers and servers? How about the careful work for Sunday’s video? Or the people who come early to greet everyone? And the list goes on! Friends, I am thankful for all that you do!

Our Harvest Festival on October 13th is set aside as a day to give thanks! It is also the day that we have set aside to celebrate this month of Stewardship! Also thanks! While we are thankful for all the things that we do, we are also thankful for the continued support that you give to this congregation. Giving is perhaps the most behind the scenes activity that we can do, as it is important for the vitality of the church. None of the planning, rehearsing, dreaming, and caring can happen without financial resources. On Sunday, October 13, first bring your stewardship cards and watch all the people doing this behind the scenes work as they place their pledge cards in the offering plate, then come celebrate “all that we do” in fellowship together at our Harvest Sunday. What a blessing!

Grace and peace,
Christine

Worship in September



Pastor Christine with Girl Scout Troop 70449



Scottish Heritage Sunday



Commissioning of Carol & Jim Nussbaumer



Blessing of the Animals





PC(USA) Mission Benefit Mini-golf Outing a Success!



The annual mini-golf outing, providing financial support to honor two PC(USA) denominational mission co-workers, was blessed with gorgeous weather and a record turnout of players on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 1.

Our church's mission budget includes line items for the support of Chenoa Stock (serving in Peru) and Tyler Holm (serving in Malawi), so the proceeds from the mini-golf tournament are supplemental funds.

The tournament was held at the Cascade Creek course at Ride-A-Kart, thanks to the generosity of course owners Kelly and Andrew Kessler, who graciously allowed our fundraiser to be held on the busiest day of the season at their business. Forty-one players turned out to support our two denominational mission co-workers.

As of this writing, the 2024 mini-golf benefit has raised \$2,050.00. Contributions will continue to be accepted through the end of October, and total funds will be split between Chenoa Stock and Tyler Holm.

The winning team, with a score of 29 strokes, was comprised of Dott & Tom Dewitz and Fran & Clyde McKinney. Each player on the first place team received a \$30 gift certificate from Poppy's Pizza & Grill/Mama Rose's Italian Restaurant (owned by Rob & Julie Pieper) and a \$25 gift certificate from Colorado Homestead (owned by the Taylor family, PCCR members).

With 31 strokes for second place, each player on the team of Sally Badali, Angelina Badali, Keili Altair and Bill Solms received a \$20 gift certificate from La Mexicana grocery store on Dunraven Street (owned by Ericka Santana and Macario Rojas).



Breaking Through

September 19, 2024

A Letter from Chenoa Stock, mission co-worker serving in Peru

Isaiah 43:19: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?

Dear friends,

It had been a while since I traveled above 10,000 ft., and I was happy to have a chance to do so when visiting Peru and our partners there this summer. My travels began in Cuzco (11,152 ft.), visiting our partners of the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP) – and the landscape of the Andean Mountains of this historical city did not disappoint. As I traveled through the rural areas outside of Cuzco with Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar, our long-time partner and colleague of the IEP, it was wonderful to hear about the ministry plans being carried out for both newer and older IEP institutions. Throughout my visits, I witnessed how our partners are breaking through old patterns and forging new paths for their ministries and future.

We first visited IEP church members of the Corca Ayllu village. These members recently came together to buy land and are now designing a retreat center for not only local church events but also events and gatherings of the greater IEP denomination. While they are still in the initial paperwork and planning phases, one could feel the energy and excitement that this new outreach is creating for the surrounding church community.

I also visited the historical IEP Sicuani Seminary and met with its Director, Pastor Santiago Condori, and a few of the seminary's professors. The seminary will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year and continues to strive to develop strong and committed faith leaders for the IEP. Though it faced some difficult challenges throughout the pandemic and continues to work to reach student enrollment numbers of pre-pandemic times, the staff of the Sicuani Seminary moved into action with the local community and found new ways to raise funds for various projects of the seminary: a new kitchen, a boys' dormitory and bathroom, and new and updated classrooms. Their greatest dream, for which they have been searching for funds for years, is the construction of a multi-use outdoor auditorium to replace the temporary tarp they currently use. With this permanent space, they could hold their graduations and other local and denominational events without worrying about the wind or other elements. The local community has been invited to support this effort, and I would also invite you all and your congregations to do so, should you feel called to support in any way. As you can see, the IEP is doing great work to develop lay and pastoral leaders, and I know they would appreciate your support and accompaniment as they continue to search for new ways to teach and exemplify God's word and love.

From the southeastern region of Cuzco, my next mountaintop experience was in the eastern watershed of the Andes, in the town of La Oroya (12,287 ft.). I traveled with my colleague, Jed Koball, and a youth delegation from Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. We journeyed on the long, winding bus journey from the capital, Lima, to La Oroya, passing through the peak at 15,850 ft., and finally arriving at the office of Filomena Tomaira Pacsi, a member institution of our other partner, the Peruvian Joining Hands Network. Filomena has been working on environmental justice campaigns for years, regarding human health due to contamination from extractive industries. While there, we met with members of the Youth Environmental Committee and hiked to the top of a hill on the outskirts of town, where Filomena was implementing their tree-planting project for the renewal of the land decimated by this contamination. Before any "work" was done, though, we were led in a ceremony of gratitude for Pachamama (Mother Earth) by Yolanda, the leader of the environmental committee. We sang together and made a commitment to Pachamama to love and care for her and each other.



Women who have been leading this long-time environmental struggle – 90+ year old Mama Toya, Modesta, and Yolanda – then danced together with movements that represented the digging of terraces on the hill, needed for tree planting – a “dance” they have been doing for many years. As a gesture of solidarity and hope for the future of La Oroya, the youth of La Oroya and the U.S. delegation then planted trees together on that hill. From this sacred place, one could see the “the light and shadows” of La Oroya – where the industries operate and have polluted and hurt the community and land, and where the people dig and plant trees and are rising up to heal. These youth were both breaking ground and breaking through the shadows to create new life and paths for their future.

This was only one of many powerful moments during this visit. In times of so much uncertainty in our world, it was refreshing and encouraging to see that our partners and their ministries continue to see hope and search and fight for new paths that lead to a better and more just future.

Thank you for being part of this hope through your prayers and support. I pray we can all find ways where we can break through the shadows to find and be the light of justice and love around us.

Peace,
Chenoa



Choir Notes:

Your music staff is entering the busiest time of the year. The two bell choirs are hard at work getting music ready for the season of Advent and Christmas as well as playing two Sundays a month before December. The choir is getting ready for two very special services in October and November. October the 27th is Reformation Sunday and the Highland Brass will be joining us as we celebrate this very important day in our Protestant tradition. And the last Sunday in November the music department will be giving a very exciting service; a “Jazz” service. This will be our very first jazz service and I know you will enjoy it as much as we will enjoy giving it. More information will be found in the November newsletter.

Larry Gillum is also hard at work preparing for all these services, and at no time in the church year does the music of the season become more exciting and beautiful than over the next three months. No one brings that joy of music to this congregation more than Larry as he plays all those wonderful pieces during Advent and Christmas.

If you would like to be part of our exciting music program, join the choir for rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the music room. We would love to see you!

-Rich Dixon, Director Chancel Choir



Groups and Events

Harvest Festival & Soup Luncheon

Sunday, October 13, 2024 at 11:00am

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 Hall prior to the 10:00 worship service. Cornbread and dessert will be provided.



PW Bible Study –October 21, 2024 Let Justice Roll Down



All women of the church are invited to participate in the Horizons Bible study, *Let Justice Roll Down*, on Monday, October 21 at 12 noon. The lesson, "Land Justice," will be led by Karen Daugherty and is based on numerous Scriptural accounts from the Old Testament. These accounts compare the divinely-ordered conquests with the laws of Jubilee which provide support for the original landholders. We will look at the history of land use and ownership in our own country as well as the Genesis story where we are directed to "serve and preserve" God's garden. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. in the church library 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 study books are available either from the church office or at the meeting for \$10. If you wish to join the meeting via Zoom, please contact Karen at jk@daughertys.us. We hope you will be able to join us for this challenging yet meaningful discussion.

Dawn Miura was the first. I came to school one autumn day in my senior year of high school to find everyone in my group of friends huddled together, crying. "What happened?" I asked warily. "Oh you didn't hear about Dawn?" said Ilima. "She, um, killed herself." This took me aback; why would a beautiful, smart, and popular teenager want to die?

Five years later, unfortunately, another of my loved ones fell to suicide. My grandmother fell into a deep depression after her husband died from cancer. She did not get the help she needed and took her own life at age 76, before she could meet any of her great-grandchildren.

Finally, five years after that, my cousin in Utah - one who I remembered as a bubbly toddler when we visited long ago - also died from suicide. This young man, a mountain biker, had his whole life ahead of him, and many trails left to ride.

These three individuals from my own experience - a high-achieving Japanese-American teenager, a grieving widow in Appalachia, and a dirtbag athlete - show us how suicide can affect anyone, regardless of age, race, gender, or class.

What can you do? Invest an hour of your life to learn about how to recognize that someone is suicidal and how to respond. On November 2nd, PCCR, in conjunction with Estes Park Schools, will be hosting a QPR ("Question, Persuade, Respond") course, led by trainers from the [Alliance for Suicide Prevention of Larimer County](#).

This course is free and open to all. Please sign up on the signup sheet located in the Narthex or by calling the PCCR office. You can also just show up but we can only hold the course if we get at least 10 people signed up.

QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING
Saturday, November 2
10-11:30 am
PCCR Library

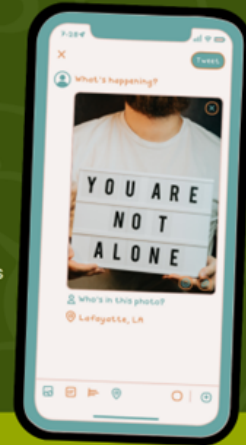
Sign up for free

QPR

Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training

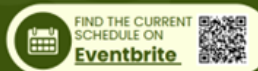
These 3 easy steps allow anyone to help prevent suicide. Learn how to partner with someone to save a life. It's something that anyone can do, we'll teach you how!

This class is free to the community, each participant earns 1 CEU, and a certificate from the QPR Institute.



In this 90 min course you'll learn:

- How to ask someone if they are thinking about suicide
- How to get help for your own mental health
- National and local suicide data and trends to understand the scope
- Signs and symptoms of a mental health crisis
- Where to find resources available locally and nationwide
- The myths & facts of suicide from suicide prevention experts



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 during the month of October for the continuation of an overview of Church history taught by Pastor Christine.

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 13: 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 20: 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.

October 27: Age of Confessionalization

What next? While many of us are familiar with the Protestant Reformation, few of us have an understanding of how the movement turned into clearly defined denominations. This age led to a new certainty in religious identity but also to increased tension in Early Modern Politics.

Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine

Wednesday Bible Study will continue on the Life of Paul.

October 2: Arrested in Jerusalem and Imprisoned in Caesarea—Acts 21:15-26:32, Romans 9-11;
1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

October 9: On to Rome—Acts 27-28; Philippians; Philemon

October 16: Paul as a Resource for the Christian Life—Romans 5; Ephesians 4; Colossians 1:15-20

October 23: Paul's unknown letter to Philemon

October 30—No Bible 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.

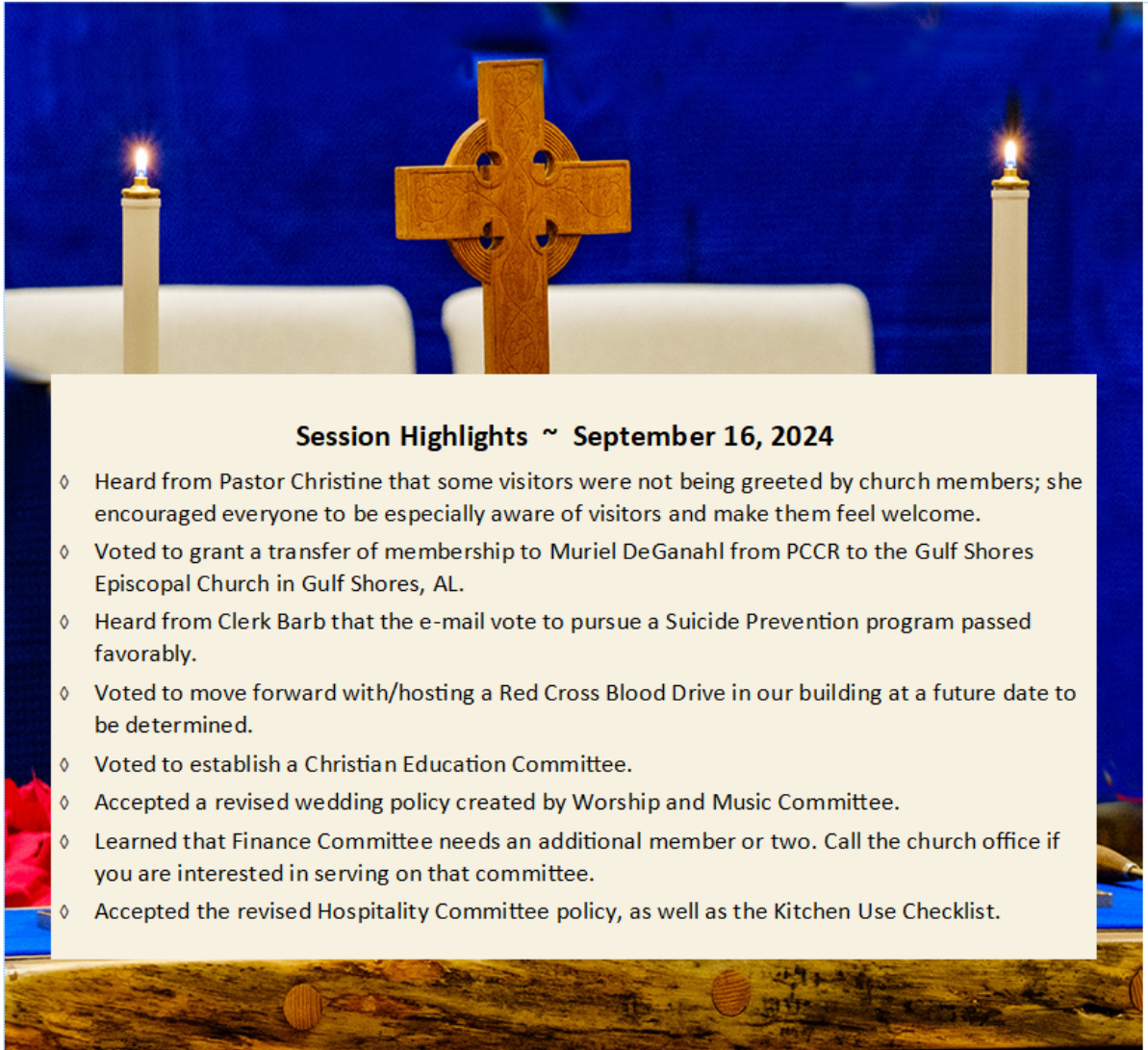
Journeys meets Sunday mornings in the church library. Gathering begins at 8:15am, with the program starting at 8:30.

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=UG50Wk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTctlUT09>

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

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



Session Highlights ~ September 16, 2024

- ◊ Heard from Pastor Christine that some visitors were not being greeted by church members; she encouraged everyone to be especially aware of visitors and make them feel welcome.
- ◊ Voted to grant a transfer of membership to Muriel DeGanahl from PCCR to the Gulf Shores Episcopal Church in Gulf Shores, AL.
- ◊ Heard from Clerk Barb that the e-mail vote to pursue a Suicide Prevention program passed favorably.
- ◊ Voted to move forward with/hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in our building at a future date to be determined.
- ◊ Voted to establish a Christian Education Committee.
- ◊ Accepted a revised wedding policy created by Worship and Music Committee.
- ◊ Learned that Finance Committee needs an additional member or two. Call the church office if you are interested in serving on that committee.
- ◊ Accepted the revised Hospitality Committee policy, as well as the Kitchen Use Checklist.

Financial Information August 2024			
	August	Jan-Aug	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$22,794	\$405,186	\$262,653
Total Expenses	\$33,525	\$449,549	\$315,307
Net Total	-\$10,731	-\$44,363	-\$52,654

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

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	8:00am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 12:00pm Bible Study-L 2:30pm Membership Committee 4:00pm Joyful Belts-FH 8:00pm GST 70449-Rm 6 8:30pm EP Chorale Quartet-MR 8:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 6:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	1:30pm Estes Park Quota Club-FH
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:15am Adult Sunday School Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship 2:00pm Inherent Service for Patricia Hozer & Gerald Brownfield-Columbanum 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal-FH	8:00am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am Building & Grounds-L 11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 3:00pm Worship & Music-L 4:30pm Deacons-L 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	10:30am Mission & Outreach Committee-L 12:00pm Bible Study-L 2:00pm The Good Grief Group-Lounge 3:00pm GST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm GST 70455/7784-Rm 6 6:30pm EP Chorale Quartet-MR 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	8:30am EPNRC Board Mtg-Rm 6 1:00pm Foundation-L 3:00pm Journeys Inner Work Group-L 4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	9:30am Harvest Festival Set Up-FH 9:30am Card Making Group-RM6
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:15am Adult Sunday School Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Harvest Festival & Soup Luncheon 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal-FH	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	Newsletter Deadline 11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 1:00pm Perennial Committee-L 4:00pm Stephen Ministers-L 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	12:00pm Bible Study-L 3:00pm GST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm EP Chorale Quartet-MR 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	11:30am Risk Management Task Force 3:00pm Columbanum Committee-L 4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:15am Adult Sunday School Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship Crossroads Donations 1:30pm Journeys Afternoon Tea 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal-FH	8:00am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 9:30am Finance Committee-L 11:00am Presbyterian Women-L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm Session-L	11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-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 6:30pm GST 70455/7784-Rm 6 6:30pm EP Chorale Quartet-MR 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6	9:30am Merry Matins-FH 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	
27	28	29	30	31		
8:15am Adult Sunday School Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Membership Information Discussion 6:00pm Oratorio Orchestra Rehearsal-FH	9:30am Hospitality-L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 6:30pm The Learning Place Family Cafe 8:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	12:00pm Bible Study-L 3:00pm GST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm EP Chorale Quartet-MR 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6		

Revised 9/30/24

***Your support is the most important “behind the scenes”
contribution you can make to your church.***

***Please join us in returning your completed pledge card on
Sunday, October 13th!***



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

“GRATITUDE”

2025 Pledge Card

I/We plan to support our church with a gift of \$_____ during 2025. Please use this figure for budget planning, with the understanding that our financial situation may change during the year, and I/we may need to make changes.

Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

City

State

Zip Code

Contact Carolyn Hull, PCCR Financial Manager, at (970) 586-4404 with questions or changes.

Please complete and submit your pledge form in one of the following ways:

- ◆ Mail it to the church office
- ◆ Place in the offering plate during worship
- ◆ Complete it on website