



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

## November 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 11



***Joyful Bells*** under the direction of Patti Dolezal



## 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](http://pccrusa.org)

### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, [pastor@pccrusa.org](mailto:pastor@pccrusa.org)

**Financial Manager:** Carolyn Hull, [finance@pccrusa.org](mailto:finance@pccrusa.org)

**Office Administrator:** Brenda Dixon, [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org)

**Handbell Director:** Patti Dolezal, [music@pccrusa.org](mailto: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 December Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, November 19. Please send your pictures and stories to: [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org) Thanks!**



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## Worship Schedule



**Worship in the Sanctuary:**

**November 3** — 10:00 am: All Saints Day; Chancel Choir

**November 10** — 10:00 am: Thank Offering Sunday and Communion; Bell Choir

**November 17** — 10:00 am: Chancel Choir with guest organist Jill Hunt

**November 24** — 10:00 am: Jazz Service with choir, piano, bass & tenor saxophone

**The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor**  
**Larry Gillum, organist**

**View through Livestream service on our website:**

Open the [pccrusa.org](https://pccrusa.org) page.

The is to the right, opening The player will start when



website, <https://pccrusa.org> on the Home

livestream player below the pictures. automatically the service

# 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.

Pledge cards can still be dropped off at the church office or mailed to the church at 1700 Brodie Ave, attention Carolyn Hull. Thank you for your support for the ministry of our Church.

**November 2024**

**Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .**

I realized last week that July is over. I linger in July. Yet, when the first snow fall hit, I was finally awakened that it is November. There is something about November that alerts us to the sacrifice of Christ. Year after year, I used to drive across the state of Nebraska with the exposed trees, the big skies, and muted colors. It felt cold and exposed, and yet as we drove into the evening, I could see the glow of the dining rooms in houses dotted across the prairie. I always wondered whose family was inside, enjoying hot soup and friendly conversation. It was warm and comforting amidst the emptiness of outside. This is what I think about when November hits.

I have found it an interesting exercise to think about Jesus in November. While Jesus did experience loneliness and despair in his lifetime, he trusted his role to be the salvation of all. It was Jesus who was the light, that presence of warmth amid the cold. We read in the Gospel of John that Jesus is the "light of all people," and that darkness would not "overcome it." (John 1:4-5) When I think about that warm glow coming from the windows of those houses, I sense the hope of Christ and it melts away that cold, November sensation.



As we move through November, I want us to reflect on the hope within the darkness. We started our month with a remembrance of our saints at the Columbarium. What a wonderful tribute to those who came before and a way to feel the light from those who have passed. As we continue in our month, let us keep up the ways that we are a beacon of hope for the future. On November 10, we will be celebrating our hope through the Presbyterian Women's annual Thank Offering, spending time with family and friends on Thanksgiving, and celebrating Christ the King on November 24. Come hear the mellow sounds of Jazz on this special music Sunday.

Friends, I think there is a reason that the end of our church year is in November, as it is a reminder that Christ is light of the World and that even when we are in the dark and the cold, Christ reigns.



Grace and peace,  
Christine

Service of Remembrance at the Columbarium with Pastor Christine, Dot Rohrbaugh and Kent Meyer

## Worship in October



## Members & Memories



## Harvest Festival





## CROSSROADS MINISTRY CELEBRATES 42 YEARS OF FAITH IN ACTION

With your support, Crossroads can continue to be a loving hand up to more of our neighbors in need in the Estes Valley.

By donating **547 pounds of food and paper products to THE MARKET AT CROSSROADS** this year, you have improved the lives of more than 300 local families and shown them true Christian love. **PCCR's donation-cart is in the Narthex on the 3rd Sunday of each month.** That's easy to remember! But, if you forget, the cart is usually in the library, waiting for donations. Not sure what to give? Your Mission and Outreach Committee will let you know what The Market needs the most.

Crossroads tries to **"Love others as well as you love yourself" (Mark 12:31)** by providing many additional practical and vital basic human services throughout each year. Partnering with **BRIGHT CHRISTMAS**, Crossroads helps 300 children have a Merry Christmas with new toys and clothes and backpacks and supplies when the school year starts.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** delivers around **5,000 meals** to people in their homes.

In addition, Crossroads:

Assists individuals with **auto repairs and bus tickets.**

Funds **utility assistance.**

Supports families with **rent and mortgage payments.**

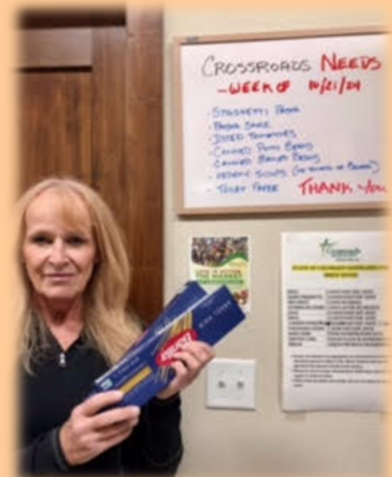
Provides hours of **mental health counseling services.**

Helps **resettle refugees** into our community.

Distributes over 400 **warm coats and cold weather gear** each Fall.

**THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING BLESSING FOOD DISTRIBUTION** is coming up on **Thursday, November 21st, from 11 am until 1 pm.**

Your gifts can make the difference between a family in need having a holiday turkey dinner with pumpkin pie for dessert or frozen pizza. Need more information on this tradition? Contact Renée Warren or Bill Almond, Crossroads board members.



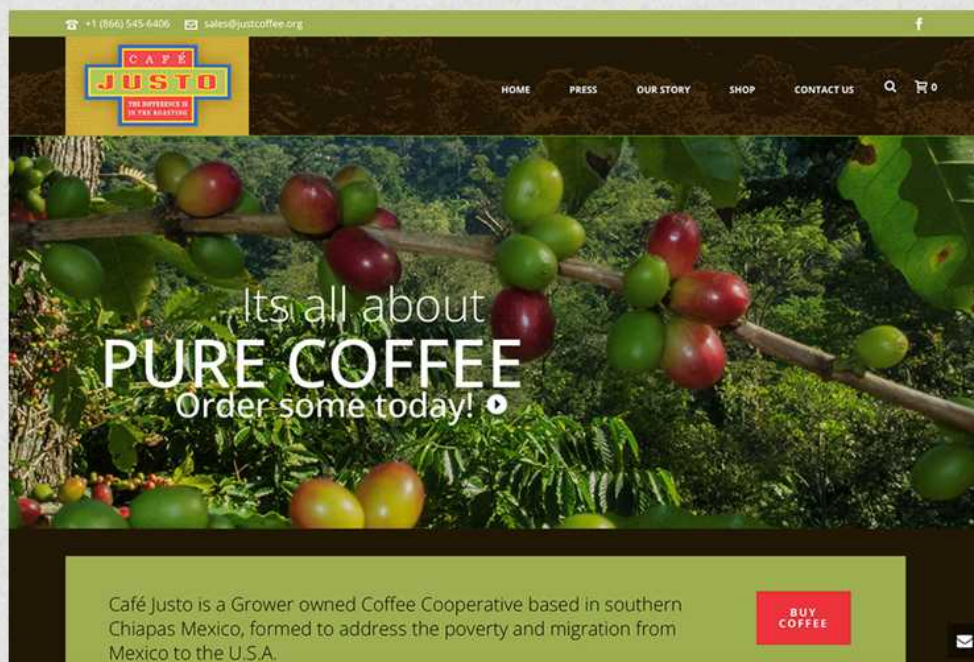
Debra, Food Program Manager

As the holidays approach, the staff and volunteers at Crossroads are grateful for all the individuals, families, businesses, organizations and churches that partner with them to make sure that our neighbors are lovingly cared for in their time of need.

**Through PCCR, you can help Crossroads give hope for a better future by donating food, necessities and your time and treasure.**

# Just Coffee /Cafe Justo WHY?

We order coffee from Café Justo in bulk, but Café Justo also sells to individuals in whatever quantity you want. So, you do not need to rely on our monthly sales to replenish your stock. This is a great way to get your Christmas shopping sent directly to your home, or to continue to have Café Justo coffee on hand when you are away from Estes for the winter. Simply go to Café Justo's web site - <https://www.justcoffee.org> – and click on either SHOP on the main menu line or on the red button for BUY COFFEE at the lower part of the home page. Their ordering process is like most web sites and is simple to follow. Enjoy!



## Hurricane Relief



How could anyone miss the headlines from the last two weeks? The Mission and Outreach Committee certainly didn't, and they took action. One of our committee members, Jane Verm and her husband Ray, a member of the summer choir, were directly effected as they were on their way home to Asheville, North Carolina when the storm hit. Unable to get to their home, or even to find out if it was still there. PCCR contacted them by cell phone and learned that they were okay and their home church (they are affiliate members of PCCR) First Baptist Church of Asheville, and member of the American Baptist Church denomination, was right in the heart of the devastation and had mobilized the congregation to offer aid to the community in a any way they could.

The Mission and Outreach Committee had in their budget from the church an item for emergencies. We felt this was an emergency if we ever saw one so voted to send \$2,000 to the First Baptist Church to aid them in their relief efforts and a second \$2,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance arm of the PCUSA working in the entire devastated area.

If you feel inclined to join the Mission Committee in giving to the cause, give your check made out to PCCR and add in the Memo line either the First Baptist Church of Asheville or PDA to Carolyn in the church office or drop it in the collection plate. For other methods of payment consult Carolyn.



 *Choir Notes:***Jazz Service**

Mark your calendars on Sunday, November 24th as we present our very first jazz service. Pastor Christine came to me in September with the thought of having a jazz service in November. I always love a challenge but finding the right people to successfully make this happen was a real problem. But as they say, the good Lord works in mysterious ways. One of our newest church members, Darin Workman, is a retired professor of music with a specialization in jazz saxophone. Then knowing that Curtis Fox is a jazz bass player, I decided to think outside the "box" concerning this kind of church service. All I needed now was a keyboard player. Upon mentioning this project to Verlene Thorp, I was pleasantly surprised that she was also excited. So, I now have our keyboardist.

My primary goal was keeping in mind that it was still to be a church service, and anything that we did could not detract from that fact. I am very excited about doing this service and feel that you as a congregation will not only enjoy the service but will still feel that you came and worshiped.

**Advent Services**

As we prepare for the season of Advent, excitement grows by the day. But while Christmas music starts to be played in stores as early as October, it is becoming more and more difficult to keep that sense of Advent anticipation. Pastor Christine and the music staff are committed to keeping the season as it is intended.

It needs to be understood that liturgically, Christmas carols are not intended to be sung until Christmas day unless they are part of the story as it leads up to the birth of Christ. Our hymnal contains twenty Advent hymns, and they are the very first hymns found in the hymnal. At least twelve of them are well known and are an integral part of the season helping prepare us for the celebration of the birth of Christ. However, as has been a long tradition of the past, Larry Gillum will be playing his improvisations on Christmas carols at the end of every service. I know I always look forward to those postludes!



-Rich Dixon, Director Chancel Choir



# Groups and Events



## Grace and Grub Pizza Party

Grace and Grub will be enjoying a pizza party on Sunday, November 24, at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall. If you haven't tried Grace and Grub yet, this is a great opportunity to check us out. Please contact Joy Holcomb if you would like to attend. [Joyholcomb11@gmail.com](mailto:Joyholcomb11@gmail.com)

## PW Bible Study – November 18, 2024 Let Justice Roll Down



On Monday, November 18, Pastor Christine will lead Lesson 3 of the Presbyterian Women's Bible study, "Let Justice Roll Down." This month's topic is "Food Justice" and we will learn how the Bible portrays the earth as yielding food in abundance, and how today's agricultural scientists say the earth could provide food for all. According to the lesson, hunger is often not a lack of food in the world; it is a result of the inequitable distribution of wealth and power. The group will look at ways food can be produced with peace and justice and how it can be used to feed a starving world. We will gather at 11:30 am in the church library for a brief social time, with the lesson beginning at 12 noon. The study books are still available either from the church office or at the meeting for \$10. This lesson will be in-person only, since Zoom will not be available this month. All women are welcome to attend.

## PCCR PUMPKIN DESSERT

(Barb Cole & Audrey Teselle Recipe)

- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin
- 1 12-ounce can evaporated milk
- 1½ cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1½ teaspoon salt

- 1 box of yellow cake mix
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup melted butter

### First Layer

Mix first 8 ingredients together and pour into a greased 9"x13" baking pan.

### Second Layer

Sprinkle 1 box of yellow cake mix over the top. Top with chopped pecans. Pour melted butter over the top.

Bake 1 hour at 350–375°

Serve warm or chilled with ice cream or whipped topping.

From Kathy's Recipe Collection, Dessert Chapter





# 2024 THANK OFFERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



muchas gracias a Dios  
많은 감사로 말미암아 넘쳤느니라

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God  
—2 Corinthians 9:11-12

## **Thank Offering Sunday, November 10, 2024**

Each fall, Presbyterian Women, joined by members of PCCR, celebrate Thank Offering Sunday as an expression of deep gratitude for God’s blessings in their lives. This offering will provide parenting skills, help for incarcerated youth, housing for homeless youth, advocacy work, and care for at-risk children. The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women’s General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. In 2024, that one dollar from 1888 is valued at \$33.19. Eight projects were selected this year for funding. Six of the projects serve people in the United States and two are international. More than forty percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries. A sample of the projects include:

- SAFEchild (Stop Abuse for Every Child) – SAFEchild works to prevent child abuse through evaluation, intervention and treatment in North Carolina. This grant will help provide specialized interviews for abused children, placing them on a path of recovery. The program offers children and families a safer future, where they can find support and live into their true capabilities.
- Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope – The surgicenter is the only 24/7 trauma and surgical care available in a rural region near the Haitian-Dominican border. The grant will be used to purchase an ambulance to transport rural patients to the surgicenter for life-saving emergency care and to safely move patients to major medical centers. It will enable medical practitioners to visit distant villages to treat children, pregnant women and people with acute illnesses.

On Sunday, November 10, we will be accepting your gifts for this special offering. Envelopes will be provided in the pews or you may send a check to our church treasurer with the notation for Thank Offering. The website also provides a link to support the Thank Offering. Our congregation has a long history of supporting this important ministry. Please join us again this year “to be enriched in every way” while providing hope and joy to the hopeless “with many thanksgivings to God.”

## **Merry Marthas Display Items on Thanks Offering Sunday, November 10th**

Members of the Merry Marthas are Estes Park ladies who like to sew, knit, weave or crochet. We meet the fourth Friday of each month to share projects we have completed and enjoy conversation. We collect our projects all year, and in the fall of the year we display everything at the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. Then we decide which local charity would be a good recipient for each item. Charities this year will include Bright Christmas, Blue Santa and Crisis Advocates in addition to the scarves and hats that have already been donated to the Crossroads Coat Drive. Merry Marthas is an ecumenical ministry of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies, and membership is open to any woman who lives in the Estes Park area. We always welcome new members no matter what the skill level.





### Adult Sunday School/Bible Study Class

Adult Bible Study class is resuming their study of the Book of Acts on November 3rd, led by Carol Nussbaumer. We thank Pastor Christine for leading the group during the months of September & October! Class meets in the Lounge at 8:15 on Sunday mornings and there is always room for YOU!

### Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine



*Wednesday Bible Study through November and December will focus on "Looking at the Covenants—the Beginning".*

November 6: The Covenant at Sinai  
Exodus 19:2-20:21, 23:20-24:11

November 13: Covenant Renewal at Shechem  
Deuteronomy 27; Joshua 24

November 20: The Davidic Covenant  
II Samuel 23: 1-7; Psalm 89

November 27: To Be Determined

Bible Study meets at 12:00 noon in the church Library. ALL ARE WELCOME!

### Did You Know ....

Many of our beautiful pictures that you see on our bulletins and in our newsletters are taken by our very own "unofficial church photographer", Peter Plaut.

The next time you see Peter and his trusty camera, let him know how much you appreciate his work as he captures the spirit and the essence of our church.

### Thank you Peter!



### 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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1ICVmtENnUxTCtIU09>  
Meeting ID: 845 741 2756 and Passcode: 80517 (only if necessary)

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

## Session Highlights ~ October 21, 2024

- ◇ Big News!!! PCCR has received a grant from FEMA for a security system! The \$85,750 will be used to install a number of cameras in and around the building and grounds for surveillance purposes, plus panic alarms in the office and downstairs for when staff is working alone in the building. Thanks to Chuck Bonza, Jim Nussbaumer and Dennis Jacobs for making this happen.
- ◇ Heard a report from Deacons that they have distributed “prayer rocks” and received many positive responses for that. They are ramping up their In Touch program, and are discussing what to do for Christmas outreach this year.
- ◇ Approved an Overnight Parking request form to be obtained by anyone wanting to park their vehicle in our parking lot overnight.
- ◇ Accepted a proposal from the Meditation Trail committee to improve the Trail. They recommend using memorial funds to cover the costs for Phase I.
- ◇ Scheduled a congregational meeting for Dec. 8, 2024 for the purpose of electing church officers and voting on the pastor’s Terms of Call.
- ◇ Scheduled the ordaining and installation of church officers for Jan. 12, 2025.
- ◇ Scheduled the Annual Meeting for February 2, 2025.
- ◇ Heard a report from Pastor Christine that the Girl Scout troop that meets in our church has brought a concern to her re/the presence of glitter and confetti on the church grounds. They are concerned about the health risks to animals that may eat some of these items.
- ◇ Approved the addition of Brian Rood to the Finance Committee.
- ◇ Heard from Personnel Committee that they are recommending a 3% increase in staff salaries for 2025.
- ◇ Received a presentation from Worship and Music Committee re/the need to update our hymnals, which have been in use since 1990. General Assembly introduced a new hymnal, *The Glory of God Hymnal* in 2015. Session approved this purchase.
- ◇ Heard from Mission and Outreach Committee that they have adopted a policy for how we select local mission projects. Restorative Justice has been included on the list of potential recipients.
- ◇ Noted that Mission and Outreach has sent \$2,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund to help with the hurricane relief efforts, and another \$2,000 to the Asheville, N.C. First Baptist Church for their hurricane relief efforts there. Two of our affiliate members live in Asheville.

| Financial Information September 2024 |           |           |                     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
|                                      | September | Jan-Sep   | Year to Date—Budget |
| Total Revenues                       | \$38,538  | \$443,544 | \$295,485           |
| Total Expenses                       | \$43,482  | \$494,900 | \$354,721           |
| Net Total                            | -\$5,124  | -\$51,356 | -\$59,236           |

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

# November 2024

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 3<br>6:15am Adult Sunday School<br>Lounge<br>8:30am Journeys -L<br>10:00am Worship<br>12:30am Service of Remembrance at the Columbian<br>6:00pm Ontario Orchestra Rehearsal -FH | 4<br>1:00pm Membership Committee-L<br>2:00pm Nominating Committee-L<br>2:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH | 5<br>11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6<br>12:00pm PEO Chapter AV-L<br>6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers -MR<br>6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study  | 6<br>12:00pm Bible Study -L<br>1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge<br>3:00pm GST 70449 -Rm 6<br>4:00pm Joyful Belts -FH<br>5:30pm EP Choral Quartet-MR<br>6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH   | 7<br>4:00pm Chancel Bells -FH<br>5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6<br>5:45pm Estes Park Girl Scouts -L<br>6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR<br>6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group -Lounge                               | 8<br>3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH  | 9<br>6:30am EVICS Provider Training & CPR Class -Rm 6<br>8:30am Card-Making Group -Rm 6 |
| 10<br>6:15am Adult Sunday School<br>Lounge<br>8:30am Journeys -L<br>10:00am Worship-Communion<br>6:00pm Ontario Orchestra Rehearsal -FH   | 11<br><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH                                   | 12<br>10:00am Building Grounds-L<br>11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6<br>1:00pm Episcopal Comm-L<br>3:00pm Worship & Music-L<br>4:30pm Deacons -L<br>6:30pm EV Chamber Singers<br>6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6 | 13<br>9:30am Finance Committee-L<br>10:30am Mission Outreach-L<br>12:00pm Bible Study -L<br>3:00pm GST 70449 -Rm 6<br>4:00pm Joyful Belts -FH<br>5:30pm GST 70450/77794-Rm 6<br>5:30pm EP Choral Quartet-MR<br>6:30pm Estes Park Chorale -FH | 14<br>8:30am EPHRC Board-Rm 6<br>3:00pm Journeys Inne Work Group -L<br>4:00pm Chancel Bells -FH<br>5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6<br>6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR<br>6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group -Lounge | 15<br>3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH   | 16  |
| 17<br>6:15am Adult Sunday School<br>Lounge<br>8:30am Journeys -L<br>10:00am Worship<br>Crossroads Devotions<br>6:00pm Ontario Orchestra Rehearsal -FH                           | 18<br>11:00am Presbyterian Women -L<br>2:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH<br>6:30pm Session-L             | 19<br>11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6<br>12:00pm PEO Chapter AV-L<br>4:00pm Stephen Ministers-L<br>4:30pm The Learning Place Family Cafe-FH<br>6:30pm EV Chamber Singers<br>6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6     | 20<br>12:00pm Bible Study -L<br>1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge<br>3:00pm GST 70449 -Rm 6<br>4:00pm Joyful Belts -FH<br>5:30pm EP Choral Quartet-MR<br>6:30pm Estes Park Chorale -FH   | 21<br>3:00pm Columbian Comm-L<br>4:00pm Chancel Bells -FH<br>5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6<br>6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR<br>6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group -Lounge                                       | 22<br>9:30am Henry Martinus -FH<br>3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH<br>7:00pm Ontario Society Concert -L, MR | 23<br>2:00pm Ontario Society Concert -L, MR   |
| 24<br>6:15am Adult Sunday School<br>Lounge<br>8:30am Journeys -L<br>10:00am Worship<br>4:00pm Grace and Grub Pizza Party -FH  | 25<br>9:30am Hospitality -L<br>2:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH   | 26<br>11:45am One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6<br>6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers -MR<br>6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6   | 27<br>12:00pm Bible Study -L<br>3:00pm GST 70449 -Rm 6<br>4:00pm Joyful Belts -FH<br>5:30pm GST 70450/77794-Rm 6<br>5:30pm EP Choral Quartet-MR<br>6:30pm Estes Park Chorale -FH   | 28<br><b>THANKSGIVING DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group -Lounge   | 29<br>3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH   | 30<br>Revised 10/21/24  |