



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

January 2025 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 13, Number 1





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



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

January 5 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Communion; Installation of New Members

January 12 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Receiving of Officers

January 19 — 10:00am Guest Minister Rev. David Markwalder; Guest Organist Jill Hunt; Special Music

January 26 — 10:00am Chancel Choir

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".

"For the past 35+ years, caring ministry has been a hallmark of our Christian faith community. It is at the heart of all we do. Let us know if we can be of help."



~ Your PCCR Stephen Ministers

January 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Blessed to be a Blessing

Happy New Year! In the church, this is a time of big change, as we welcome new members to the Session and the Deacon board, dream about New Year's goals and ask where the spirit is leading us next. What is important for us as a church body is to discern how we can grow "being the church" in many different areas including worship, spiritual growth, mission, community outreach, congregational care, and sustainable stewardship. "Being the church" is being well-rounded in our ministry so that we can be a blessing to others.

Of course, being well-rounded is sometimes just as difficult for a church as it is in our daily lives. How many of us feel like we balance our lives? In a traditional life-balance graph, we try to carve out time for different interests and needs. An example might be a pie graph with activities depicted as pieces of the pie according to their importance. A pie graph for life might include sections for exercise, study, family time, sleep, and playing ball. When we see it graphed, it might look like a balanced worksheet for our lives. But how many of us have put "faith" as one of the pieces of the pie? When we do this, it puts faith as a thing we do, not as the essence of who we are. I want us to envision a different model, where faith is at the center of our lives and that our trust in God permeates all we do. This graph would have God at the center with rays that emanate out. This image provides us a vision of our lives, lived in faith. God is at the center of this model, and God informs us of all that we do and all that we are in life. When we put faith at the center of our lives, the wholeness of the church grows as well. When faith radiates in your being, you spread the good news to others. When we do this as a group, the result is that our church grows in numbers, that we make new friends in our community, and we radiate a blessing to all people.

This year, let us think about how we are a blessing to others, as both a church and as individuals in the church. How does the faith awakened in us radiate to all our activities? All our life? As Paul writes, "For we do not proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:5-6).

Grace and peace,

Christine



Worship in December





*Thank you to all who purchased Poinsettias
and gave to the*

Joy Offering this 2024 Christmas season!

Lory McDonald in Memory of Angela Hicks

Steve & Evelyn Wilson in Memory of our good friend Bo Winslow

Pete & Bonnie Vanderveen in Memory of our mothers & fathers

Verlene Thorp in Memory of Roger Thorp and Kevan Holdsworth

Tony & Diane Palmer in Honor of our children & grandchildren, and in
Memory of Ella

David & Katha Schweitzer in Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Albert Schweitzer
and Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Hannie, and in Honor of our grandchildren Autumn, Aspen & Adam

Amy Fox in Memory of Susie Manhoff and Charles Norman Manhoff

Carol & Brian Rood in Memory of Reverend John Symonds

Jim & Karen Daugherty in Memory of our parents Bob & Jean Terry and Don & Betty Daugherty

Dennis & Anne Jacobs in Honor of our loved ones

Donn & Sylvia Adams in Memory of Colleen Carney, George & Ella Adams, and Nathan & Ellen Andrews

Anonymous

Kari Morrill in Honor of Donald K. & Sylvia Adams, and in Memory of Colleen Carney

Kelley & Brad Anderson in Memory of the departed Anderson and Dowis families, and in Honor of Catherine Moon,
Carol Davis & Bettye Walsh

Barb & Chuck Slicker in Memory of our parents, our brother Jake Slicker and sister Diane ~~Gratta~~

Sibyl Gardner in Memory of Romaine Gardner

Tim & Carolyn Hull in Honor of our family

Randy & Terry Brigham in Memory of our parents Howard & Jean Brigham and Howard & Marilyn Eichner

Joanne White in Memory of Jim White

Marilyn Irwin in Honor of my granddaughters Ramona & Amelia Irwin

Jim Carpenter in Memory of Jane Tewksbury Carpenter

Barbara Cole in Memory of Ken Cole, Joe & Jerry Robinson, Paul & Ruth Cole, and Bill Robinson

Larry & Linda Emsing in Honor of Chris & Lora Emsing and our great grandchild

Mimi & David Hardendorf in Honor of Charles Ridenour

Jack Holmquist in Memory of Carolyn Holmquist, Mollie Holmquist and Tim Kuster

Susan Landers in Memory of my parents Dave & Mary Lou Camp

Jeff & Sandy Moren Lindberg in Memory of Joe & Dick Lindberg, and John T. & Rema Moren

Kent & Betty Meyer in Honor of our children, Ethan & Jo

Tina Myers in Memory of Jim Myers



Mark & Barb Richards in Memory of our parents

Audrey TeSelle in Memory of Ken TeSelle

Darin & Jennifer Workman

Sue, Justin & Ebonie Yowell in Memory of Jack & Helen, Joyce & Kent, Jack Jr. and Bill & Sheila Yowell

Bob & Joy Holcomb in Honor of our family and friends

Joanie Kleckner in Honor of my wonderful family

Dave & Sue Thomas in Memory of Verneal & Lucile Thomas and Oden Alreck, and in Honor of Joanne Alreck

Stan & Kathye Osborne in Memory of Phil & Solviog Ingersoll, and in Honor of Verlene Thorp and Patti Dolezal

Ivan Wilkinson in Memory of Ginger Wilkinson

Nancy & Bill Almond in Memory of our parents Joe & Carolyn Hart and Pat & Henry Almond

Jim & June Gamet in Memory of our parents



Crossroads Ministry

Congratulations! We did it! Our total donations to the Crossroads Market for 2024 reached 1,047 pounds.

Your monthly donations to the Crossroads Market are greatly appreciated! These extra-mile gifts from you help families put food on the table and help fill requests from local students for weekend food bags.

Even in our beautiful valley, the hunger beast hovers over far too many. Your gifts truly make a dent in this on-going need.

Thank you!





PCCR supports Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership

Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership (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. EVRJP is building and restoring community one relationship at a time.

In 2025, Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies will begin to include EVRJP as a regular line item in the church's Mission & Outreach budget. In the past, we've provided financial support to EVRJP through one of our denomination's special offerings, and the budget for the coming year provides \$1,000.00 to the local agency. In addition to financial support, several members of the PCCR congregation are actively involved as volunteers with the organization.

Melissa Westover, EVRJP's interim manager, explains that "EVRJP was purposely designed to utilize volunteers in all aspects of the program. We believe community problems need to be addressed through community involvement and interaction. Our volunteers are trained to facilitate and mediate, which requires specialized training and skill sets. Not just anyone can do what these folks do. They are smart, intuitive, and dedicated. It is difficult to express how much I appreciate and admire each of them."

Restorative Justice did not have its golf fundraiser this past summer, so instead, on December 12, EVRJP held a unique fundraiser dinner – a to-go meal provided by Mama Rose's. Supporters, volunteers and others were encouraged to make a financial contribution to Restorative Justice and to pick up a meal at the local restaurant.

Thank you from Malawi

We have had an e-mail from Mr. Lemani Kayira expressing his gratitude to PCCR for helping support 2 projects in northern Malawi. These projects-- the Blanket Fund and the Christmas Dinner—provide tangible evidence that these in extreme poverty are not forgotten. Not even by people living 10,000 miles away in that unbelievably rich country of America.



Mr. Kayira writes: "On June 18, 2024, we were overwhelmed with gratitude for your generous donation to purchase blankets for vulnerable women, children, the elderly and others.... Undoubtedly, your kindness brought comfort and hope to those who received these blankets. 202 people (175 female and 27 male) benefited.

Your generosity is a testament to the power of compassion and kindness. As the Bible says in Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Your selfless act is a reminder that we are all called to serve and care for one another.

Please know that your donation had a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve. We are honored to be stewards of your gift and promise to use it wisely. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity, and trust in us.

May God bless your congregation abundantly for your selfless act."

Groups and Events

Interest Survey in future Adult Dementia Day Program

A small group of community members is trying to ascertain whether there is interest in our Estes Valley Community for a 4-8 hour weekday enrichment program for loved ones experiencing Dementia. This would also give caregivers some time for respite outside of caregiving.

Does your household include someone experiencing Dementia related cognitive and memory issues? Would an **Adult Dementia Day Enrichment Program** here in Estes Park be of interest to you and your loved one? It would be a drop off program so that caregivers are able to have some respite time while folks with Dementia are engaged in activities.

Interested or not, we would very much appreciate your input through this very quick survey (4 questions only). If you already have received and filled out the survey, please don't bother to fill it out again. We are trying to reach as many people in Estes Valley as possible without it being duplicative, so we will know if there is enough interest to move forward.

Click on the link to get to the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVZZH88>

If you have questions please feel free to call Jane at 970-430-8105.

- submitted by Jane Stuart

PW Bible Study –January 20, 2025 Let Justice Roll Down



On Monday, January 20, Betty Meyer will lead Lesson 4 of the Presbyterian Women's Bible study, "Let Justice Roll Down." This month's topic is "Air Quality" with the main idea being, "The wind itself often signals a holy moment, and is related to both our breath and God's, both our spirit and God's." 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 of the church are welcome to attend.



Adult Sunday School/Bible Study Class

Join Carol Nussbaumer on Sunday mornings in the Lounge at 8:15am for an interactive and informative study on topics from the bible. New sessions are beginning and ALL are invited to attend.

Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine

Wednesday Bible study will begin anew on January 8th at 12:00pm in the church Library with a study on Genesis. All are welcome.



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.

In January, Journeys will continue to study the video series: *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God*. The principal presenters in the 12-week series are John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. The videos were shot on location throughout the Galilee and Jerusalem. The weekly topics will be:

January 5	Collaborative Eschaton
January 12	The Lake as the World
January 19	Parables as Lures
January 26	Jesus as Lord

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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTChlUT09>

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

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2024

- ◇ Learned that our very own Sue Yowell will be serving as Vice-Moderator of Plains and Peaks Presbytery for 2025.
- ◇ Approved the proposed church budget for 2025.
- ◇ Approved using Foundation funds to purchase new carpet for the downstairs portion of the church. This has been a needed item ever since the 2013 flood.
- ◇ Voted to approve the proposed Terms of Call for Pastor Christine and recommend them to the congregation for vote at a December 8 Congregational meeting.
- ◇ Received a reminder from the Membership Committee to have people sign attendance record books each Sunday at worship service.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 16, 2024

- ◇ Recognized outgoing Elders Jim Nussbaumer, Bill Solms, Pat Waltermire, and Sue Yowell, offering them our thanks and appreciation.
- ◇ Noted that several pledge cards are still outstanding. The hope is that these will be turned in to the office soon so the 2025 budget can be finalized.
- ◇ Held several elections for 2025 Church positions:
 - Peter Plaut—President of the Church Corporation
 - Jack Boatman—Church Treasurer
 - Barbara Cole—Clerk of Session
- ◇ Approved holding the Blue Christmas service communion to be done by intinction.
- ◇ Modified the request for Foundation monies for the downstairs carpet from up to \$6,000 to up to \$8,000.
- ◇ Heard a report from Membership Committee that we gained 12 new members in 2024.
- ◇ Learned from Mission and Outreach that they have established criteria for taking on any new group, that all groups will receive consistent amounts of money.
- ◇ Approved two revisions to the Employee Handbook; added the Christian Education to the list of committees and added vaping to the list of substances not allowed in the church.

Financial Information November 2024			
	November	Jan-Nov	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$27,287	\$490,986	\$361,148
Total Expenses	\$31,414	\$561,850	\$433,548
Net Total	-\$4,127	-\$70,864	-\$72,400

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

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship/ New Member Installation 6:00pm Oratorio Society Orchestra-FH	1:00pm Membership Committee-L	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	10:20am Mission/Outreach-L 12:00pm Bible Study-L 12:20pm Estes Menzgroff Network-Rm 6 1:00pm The Good Girl Group-Lounge 3:00pm CST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm EVICS-FH 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 70455/7784-Rm 6	8:30am EPARC Board/Rm 1:00pm Foundation-L 3:00pm Journeys Inset Work Group-L 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship/Installation of Officers 6:00pm Oratorio Society Orchestra-FH	9:30am Finance Committee-FH 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am Building/Grounds-L 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 1:00pm Personnel Comm-L 3:00pm Worship/Music-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:30pm Diacon-L 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	12:00pm Bible Study-L 3:00pm CST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	3:00pm Columbian Comm-L 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship Crossroads Donations 11:15am Mutual Pres-FH 6:00pm Oratorio Society Orchestra-FH	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 11:30am Presbyterian Women-L 12:30pm Girl Scouts of Estes Park-Lounge, Rm 1, Rm 3 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 12:00pm PEO Chapter AN-L 4:00pm Stephen Ministers-L 5:30pm The Learning Place Family Cafe-FH, K 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	12:00pm Bible Study-L 1:30pm The Good Girl Group-Lounge 3:00pm CST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Bells-FH 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 70455/7784-Rm 6 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	9:30am Merry Marches-FH 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	9:30am PEO Founders Day Branch-FH, K 4:00pm Girl Scout Daisy Troop 70504-Rm 6
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Oratorio Society Orchestra-FH	9:30am Hospitality-L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:00pm Session-L	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	12:00pm Bible Study-L 3:00pm CST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale-FH	4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	

Revised 1/5/25