



Volume 13, Number 2



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

February 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.





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 March Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, February 18. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

February 2 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Communion; Annual Congregational Meeting

February 9 — 10:00am Chancel Choir

February 16 — 10:00am Bell Choir

February 23 — 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".



The Power of Prayer

Pastor Christine is handling all the prayer requests and will be the first point of contact. If you have a prayer request you would like to share with the congregation, please contact Pastor Christine at pastor@pccrusa.org or call 970-586-4404.

February 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey . . .

Glory to God! Friends, this is the name of our new hymnbook. Many of you that came to Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies are familiar with this newest hymnbook and the songs in it, but for others, this will be brand new. I am looking forward to loving this book and growing our hymn repertoire. In our modern day, when many churches are abandoning the hymnal, we are losing a beautiful part of our church heritage. These hymns are written with care to embody strong theological principles, tie us to the history of our tradition, and touch on the breadth of scripture. They encourage us to sing together and be active participants in the worship service.



Here are some of the exciting reasons that we want to adopt a new hymnal. The Glory to God hymnal:

1. ...provides us with updated texts to accommodate traditional tunes. Since the beginning of congregational hymn writing, hymn tune writers have written new words to accommodate known tunes. This allows us to understand how the church is working today by confronting the issues of our time.
2. ...gives us new tunes that expand our repertoire and gives God's words a new musical voice.
3. ...reprints some of the beloved hymns that have regained popularity due to folk music arrangements or new hearing opportunities. Because it has 853 hymns compared to 605, there is more room to include some of our old favorites.
4. ...incorporates the psalter into the body of the hymnal instead of having it limited to one grouping. In our reformed tradition, the psalter is the backbone of our musical tradition. For many years, only psalms were sung, mimicking the practice of the early church. As our body of hymnody grew, churches pushed the psalms aside, and, ultimately, churches rarely used the psalter section of the hymnal. Now, the psalms are incorporated throughout the book helping us choose psalms that fit the scriptural theme.
5. ...includes hymn notes at the bottom of every hymn. We all love the hymn notes in our Sunday bulletin, and a shortened version of the notes are included with each hymn. There is also a supplement (that we will purchase for our library) that gives us even more information about each hymn.
6. ...embraces a variety of pieces from different cultures allowing us to come together with Christians throughout the world.

These are a few of the exciting new features in this hymnal. I am so excited that we will get to know it, grow with the music, and share the songs with our loved ones. One of the ways that we are celebrating this book is by encouraging each of you to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one. I am so honored to do this for my parents, as they truly cherished hymns, the sound of the organ and all voices united in harmony.

I hope you are as excited as I am.

Grace and peace,

Christine

Worship in January



The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey



Chancel Choir



Service of Ordination and Installation of our new Elders and Deacons on January 12th



Judy Schaffer with Beth Carle as Beth is received as a new member of our congregation on January 26th



Guest minister Rev. David Markwalder with his wife, Marsha Markwalder providing special music on January 19th





Kent E. Dannen
1946—2025

You are and will be missed!

***Thank you note from Nathan Heckler,
son of Candace Chapin:***

“I would like to thank everybody for helping with my mother’s move. I can not fully express my gratitude for everyone’s generosity and support. My Mother is truly fortunate to have such a devoted church family.

Very Sincerely,
Nathan Heckler”

Thank-You Notes to the Congregation

The Mission and Outreach Committee often receives thank-you notes for funds we send on behalf of the entire PCCR congregation. In turn, we thank you for your support shown through your pledges and loose plate offerings, some of which allow the Committee to extend a hand on your behalf.

Estes Valley Restorative Justice Partnership

“Dear Congregation of PCCR,

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$156.25 to Restorative Justice! It is especially meaningful that it was given to celebrate global peace— something we all hope & pray for!

We are so very grateful for the support of the faith community in our efforts!

Warmly,
Melissa Westover, Interim Manager for EVRJP”

First Baptist Church Asheville, NC

“Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the ministers and members of First Baptist Church of Asheville, thank you very much for your generous contribution to our Church.

Your gift is designated for Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief.

In Appreciation,
Gene McClure”

Estes Valley Crisis Advocates

“Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for supporting throughout each year! We value your kindness & friendship!

Sincerely,
EVCA & My Sister’s Place Safehouse”

Just Coffee /Cafe Justo

Some interesting facts: On a global basis, coffee is the second most exported commodity, after oil. Coffee is grown across the world, with most of the output coming from five countries. The largest producer is Brazil, where coffee has been grown since the early 18th century. Brazil produces nearly 40% of the coffee consumed across the globe. The second chief producer is Vietnam. Columbia, Ethiopia and Indonesia round out the top five. Mexico is ranked as the 10th largest producer.

The coffee we sell and drink at the church comes from the Café Justo coffee cooperative in Mexico. Members of the cooperative cultivate the coffee in Mexico's southernmost state of Chiapas. They grow the coffee organically, with no use of pesticides. The beans are harvested and dried there, then are shipped overland for roasting and bagging in Agua Prieta, located at the Mexico US border across from Douglas, Arizona.

World-wide demand for coffee has increased over the past several years. China, for example, has reportedly boosted its coffee consumption by over 60% in the last 5 years. Coffee drinking in the US reached a two-decade high in 2024. At the same time, coffee production has been adversely impacted by weather changes in the major coffee producing countries. As a result, demand for coffee is challenging supply.

We see this impact in the coffee we get from Café Justo. We have recently experienced delays and shortfalls in orders. Café Justo told us that the weather in Chiapas was drier than usual during much of the 2024 growing season, which decreased the yield. Then Chiapas experienced heavier than normal rains toward the end of the season, which delayed the harvest and interrupted drying the beans. Café Justo is currently trying to catch up on fulfilling orders.

Stay tuned to see whether this will be a short- or long-term imbalance in the supply and demand for coffee.

New Church Officers

Please take a moment to welcome and thank your new Elders and Deacons who were installed during the worship service on Sunday, January 12th.

Continue to give them your support as they begin their three year term.

Elders—Class of 2027



Mimi Hardendorf



Duane Miller



Mark Richards



Jennifer Workman

Deacons—Class of 2027



John Davis



Patti Dolezal



Marilyn Irwin

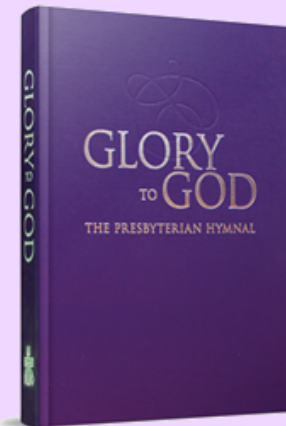


Larry Pierce



Glory to God

Sponsor a new *Glory to God* hymnal in honor or in memory of loved ones, or sponsor a hymnal in your own name and help fill the sanctuary with new music. The hymnals are \$25 each and your sponsorship will appear as a bookplate located inside the front cover of the hymnal. Sponsor forms will be included in the church bulletins and are available in the Narthex or the church office through February.



Why Give a Pledge to Presbyterian Women?

Each year in February, pledge letters are distributed to all women who are members and friends of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. We make an effort to distribute as many letters as possible on Sunday mornings to save the cost of postage. There will be a table in the narthex where the letters will be available starting February 16.

This is an opportunity for the women of our church, regardless of whether or not they attend the PW Bible Study, to support the ongoing mission and ministry of Presbyterian Women. Your pledge helps support the denomination's evangelism, church planting, education and justice work as well as ministry to children, youth and older adults in rural, urban and suburban populations across the United States and around the world. The support of our church is divided among Presbyterian Women churchwide, in the Synod and in the Presbytery. Our local PW pledge to these missions is \$1,750. At the end of each year, we also give to local organizations, focusing on helping those groups that provide support to women and children in the Estes Valley. Your pledge ensures that our caring community of women can continue its witness to the promise of God's kingdom. We are truly grateful for your generous support.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time! - February 16, 2025



The local Brownie/Junior Troop will be selling cookies after worship in the Narthex on Sunday, February 16. Cookies are \$6-\$7 per box, cash or card; gluten free and vegan varieties available. Come satisfy your sweet tooth or get a great gift for friends and family while supporting our local troop. Want free home delivery? Contact Meredith (meredithshida@gmail.com) and girls will bring the cookies to your doorstep, at no extra charge.



Black History Month Concert presented by The Combined Choirs of Estes Park

Sunday, February 23
2:30 pm

Presbyterian Community
Church of the Rockies

Voices United in Harmony

Oratorio Society of Estes Park
Robert Charles Howard, Director

Estes Park Chorale
Denise Stookesberry, Director

Estes Park Chamber Singers
J. Richard Dixon, Director

No charge to attend. Donations will be accepted to go towards local charities.

Groups and Events

Pancake Supper

Mark your calendar for the annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 4th.

The Grace and Grub group plans and serves the meal which is a fundraiser for Crossroads. The meal is free but there will be donation jars to collect your donations. Delicious pancakes, ham, and blueberries will be served. Enjoy the festive atmosphere with Mardi Gras decorations and New Orleans style music.

The meal will be served from 4:30 until 6:00. Plan to come and invite your family, neighbors and friends. Please join us for this fun event!



PW Bible Study –February 17, 2025 Let Justice Roll Down—Lesson 6



Due to the frigid temperatures and brisk winds, our January Bible Study session was canceled. We hope everyone has read Lesson 5 titled Air Quality on their own. It was decided that we would not extend our year, so on February 17, Bonnie Vanderveen will lead us through Lesson 6, titled "Climate Change". The main idea of the lesson, according to our study guide is, "Scripture teaches us to listen to prophets who warn of threats, avoid complacency and self-concern and participate with joy in the work God has given us to do." Considering the hurricanes on the east coast and the wildfires in California, this is a very timely and important topic to study as Christians. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. in the church library for a brief social time, with the lesson beginning at 12 noon. This lesson will be in-person only, since Zoom will not be available.

All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Adult Sunday School/Bible Study Class



The Sunday morning Adult Study Group is re-visiting a video course titled "Listening to the Land of the Bible". We enjoyed it so much a while back that we want to see it again! We're pretty sure we will pick up even more new insights the second time around. You are invited to come discover how understanding the *land* of the Bible leads to deeper understanding of the *theological concepts* of the Bible.

The course is taught by Dr. Cyndi Parker whose description reads "Knowing the context always gives us a better, deeper understanding. Get ready to go on the journey through the Bible with a map in hand as Dr. Parker shows you how to listen to the land of the Bible. You will discover how knowing where biblical events occurred can make a difference between us understanding the deeper message of the Bible and missing the bigger picture. Learn how to listen to the Land of the Bible. Hear it speak to you today!"

The land is a character in the biblical stories; the picture in your head will influence the theological lesson you learn. Are you picturing the right thing?

Class meets in the Lounge each Sunday morning at 8:15; we end around 9:00 or a bit after so choir singers and bell ringers can go to practice. And by then, the coffee is ready in Fellowship Hall so you can enjoy a sip and fellowship before worship.

Questions? Contact Carol Nussbaumer, facilitator. carol@nussbaumers.net 970-586-2437

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 February, 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:

February 2	Substitutionary Atonement?
February 9	Demonstrations in Jerusalem
February 16	The Crowd & the Crucifixion
February 23	Resurrection as Resistance

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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTctlUT09>

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 January 27, 2025 Meeting

- ◊ Heard that work is progressing on a new security system for the church. PCCR is coordinating through the Department of Homeland Security Management of Colorado.
- ◊ Approved a motion to put Sue Yowell, Jennifer Workman, Jim Daugherty, Nancy Johnson and Fred Thibodeau on the new Christian Education Committee.
- ◊ Noted that financial audits will be conducted this year for both the Foundation and PCCR. This is regularly done every five years, with financial reviews in intervening years.
- ◊ Approved all communion dates for 2025 and all special offerings.
- ◊ Approved a request from the Girl Scout troop that meets at our church to hold a cookie sale following worship, and also to ask them to do a Minute for Mission.
- ◊ Received an update on the purchase of new hymnals.

Wednesday Bible Study with the Pastor Christine

Wednesday Bible study will continue with a study on “Genesis—In the Beginning”, meeting in the church Library at 12:00 noon.

February 5—Cain and Abel; Genesis 4:1-16

February 12—What’s in a family tree?; Genesis 4:17-5:32

February 19—the Nephilim; Genesis 6:1-8

February 26—No Class

All are welcome!



Financial Information December 2024

	November	Jan-Dec	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$71,379	\$562,366	\$393,980
Total Expenses	\$41,474	\$611,788	\$472,961
Net Total	\$29,905	-\$49,422	-\$78,981

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

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						9:30am Card-Making Group - FH 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys -L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Congregational Meeting-S 6:00pm Orlando Society Orchestra-FH	1:00pm Membership Committee-L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 12:00pm PEO Chapter AV-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm Essex Valley Chamber Singers-ARR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	12:00pm Bible Study-L 12:30pm Essex Hospital Network-Rm 6 1:00pm The Good Girl Group-Lounge 4:00pm Joyful Bible-FH 6:30pm Essex Park Chorale-FH	12:00pm Shipping Stoves At Avon Group-Lounge 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-ARR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	1:00pm Keel Dorman Memorial Service-S 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am GSST 70449-Rm 6
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys -L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Congregational Meeting-S 6:00pm Orlando Society Orchestra-FH	9:30am Finance Committee 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 Deacons-L 8:30pm Essex Valley Chamber Singers-ARR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	10:30am Mission Outreach-L 10:45pm Essex Park Women's Club-FH 12:00pm Bible Study-L 4:00pm Joyful Bible-FH 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 70455/7784-Rm6 6:30pm Essex Park Chorale-FH	8:30am EPTIC Board Meeting-Rm6 12:00pm Shipping Stoves At Avon Group-Lounge 3:00pm Journeys Inner Work Group-L 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-ARR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am GSST 70449-Rm 6
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys -L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Congregational Meeting-S 6:00pm Orlando Society Orchestra-FH	CHURCH OFFICE 11:30am Presbyterians Women-L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Retreat at Highlands Camp 12:00pm Bible Study-L 1:00pm The Good Girl Group-Lounge 4:00pm Joyful Bible-FH 6:30pm Essex Park Chorale-FH	12:00pm Shipping Stoves At Avon Group-Lounge 3:00pm Counterstream Committee-L 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm EVCS-Rm6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir	3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am GSST 70449-Rm 6 4:00pm Girl Scout Daisy Troop 70504-Rm 6
8:15am Adult Sunday School -Lounge 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Concert 2:00pm Oratorio Society 6:00pm Oratorio Society Orchestra-FH	8:30am Hospitality-L 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	8:30am Essex Hospital-FH 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Rm 6 12:00pm EVCS Yoga-Rm6 3:30pm The Learning Place-FH 6:30pm EVCS-ARR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study-Rm 6	12:00pm Bible Study-L 4:00pm Joyful Bible-FH 5:30pm GSST 70455/7784-Rm6 6:30pm Essex Park Chorale-FH	12:00pm Shipping Stoves At Avon Group-Lounge 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-ARR	8:30am Merry Mornings-FH 3:30pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	

Revised 1/16/25