

Volume 13, Number 4



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

April 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.



Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025—10:00 am



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 May Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, April 22. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

- April 6** — 10:00am Chancel Choir
- April 13** — 10:00am Palm Sunday; Joyful Bells with Kathye Osborne on flute; Chancel Choir
- April 17** — 5:00pm Maundy Thursday; Chancel Choir; Trio of Kathye Osborne, flute/ Patti Dolezal, bells/ Stan Osborne, piano
- April 18** — 12:00pm Good Friday
- April 20** — 10:00am Easter; Chancel Bells, Chancel Choir & the Highland Brass
- April 27** — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Guest Minister Chris Davis

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".

Spring is Here

With the coming of Spring, we are blessed with the arrival of many baby animals all around our church and the surrounding community.

A couple of years ago a mother coyote gave birth to a litter of pups close to the church driveway and unfortunately a car hit and killed one of the pups. A member of our congregation has again spotted a female in the same location where the last litter was born so we may see pups again soon.

Please be on the lookout and remember to slow down and drive carefully.

Happy Spring!



April 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Dear friends,

Perhaps you have noticed the two empty crosses I have hanging from my door. For me, these are special crosses as they are carved out wooden pieces from the caskets of my parents. Every day, the crosses greet me with the love of my parents and they remind me of the good people who nurtured me in the church. I hope that when you come to see me, that you too feel welcome and free to share what is on your hearts and minds.

Being welcoming to one another is one of the calls of our faith.

Much of the story of Jesus' life is steeped in his willingness to welcome all people regardless of race, gender, age, social status or ability. Everyone is welcome at Christ's table! Everyone is welcome in Christ's home! While this is true in Jesus' time, it is also true in the church today, as Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you."

There are many ways that we welcome others into our fellowship. First, in our opportunities to get-together and share with one another, in inviting people to worship and greeting them warmly, and in sending cards and making phone calls. But other ways that we can welcome others is to provide a home where all people can be nurtured, and this is a focus that I have in helping us reclaim the welcome of our space where we can invite people to share in our church home.

Over the next month, you are going to see a lot of updates to our church home that will improve safety, create an atmosphere of home, and provide updated facilities. This is a way that we can tell our community, this is a place of joy where all can be at home and feel wrapped in God's love. The spaces include the lounge, refreshed carpeting in the basement and a new family bathroom. The lounge has new furnishings that allow for multiple uses in the space including an intimate small adult education class, a homey retreat for AA, al-anon and grief groups, a meeting place for grieving, and even a place for brides to get ready. This room is funded out of memorial giving. Another update will be a refreshing of the basement classrooms including carpet and paint. This will make the rooms welcome for our growth and our neighbors. Finally, we are working on converting the little bathroom in the library into a family bathroom. While this may be used by a parent and children, it will also be equipped with full accessibility for those with mobility issues.

While these physical changes will be a long-awaited facelift for our church, it is our smiling faces, our kindnesses, and our genuine welcome that are the core of Christ's welcome to us. Let us invite them to our home! Let them all dine at our table! And let them come to call this a home too!

Grace and Peace,

Christine



Worship in March



Thank you to all in our congregation who came and enjoyed the food and festivities at our pancake supper fundraiser benefiting Crossroads. \$885 was raised and donated. In the years this event has been held, we have donated more than \$10,000.00

Grace and Grub



Do you love the feel of a “real” book in your hands? Are you passionate for keeping things in order? Do you thrive on details? Do you just want to get out of the house for a few hours during the week?

You might be the exact person we are looking for! Our church library is in need of a volunteer to oversee it’s inventory. If you are interested or need further information, contact the church office.

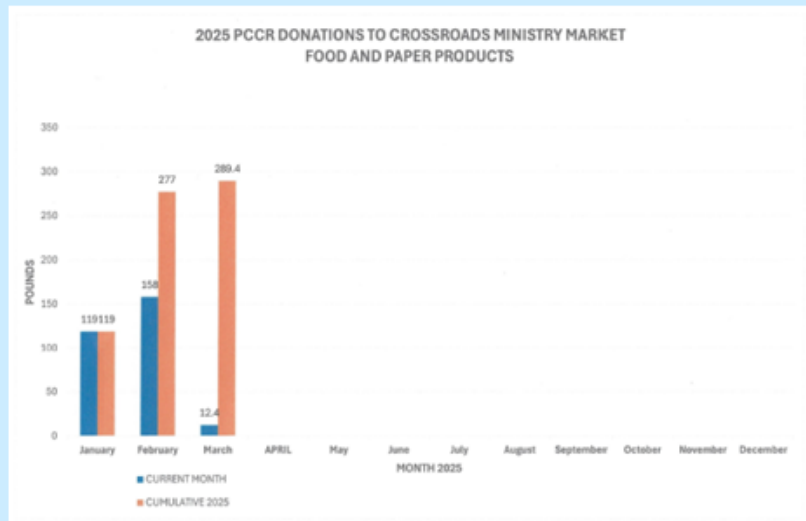


Crossroads Donations Update

Last year, PCCR donated 1,047 pounds of food and paper products to the Crossroads Market.

According to their 2024 Impact Statement, 90% of Crossroads’ aid to local families involves food! Let’s challenge each other to aim for a greater total this year!

Thank you, Your Mission Committee



Thank You PCCR!

The following has been received from Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley:



"For 38 years, donors and volunteers have helped us build homes, communities and hope. Your financial support makes Habitat's mission possible...We have big plans in 2025 and beyond... We'll soon begin construction of the first of 5 single family homes on Raven Avenue in Estes Park.

If you have volunteered with Habitat in the past, we appreciate your personal commitment and action that is the foundation of Habitat's work. How fast we build depends on how many volunteers join us! Volunteers are welcome on our construction sites and at the ReStore. Visit www.stvrainhabitat.org to see where we need help and sign up for a shift.

Thank you for partnering with hard-working families and individuals to transform lives for generations through homeownership."

Donation sent to Support LA Fire Recovery

The Mission and Outreach Committee voted to match the recent collection from the congregation to send support to the Presbyteries impacted by the LA Fires in January. The congregation collected \$1,059 and the Mission Committee voted last week to match that amount from budgeted "emergency funds", resulting in a total donation of \$2,118 from our church to support fire recovery efforts through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Three Presbyteries in the LA area were severely impacted by the fires, one congregation losing their church building, as well as numerous parishioners and some pastors losing their homes. Recovery will take a long time, and we are assured that these funds will make a difference. In a communication with Executive Presbyter The Rev. Juan Sarmiento, we received this: "Thank you so much for your care. We know that we are not alone as we witness Christ's inextinguishable love for the people of Los Angeles." The Mission and Outreach Committee thanks all who supported this opportunity to help our neighbors in need.

Dementia Day Care Center

Wouldn't it be great to have a place to go where a person with various symptoms of dementia could find joy, companionship, and enjoy events with others? Wouldn't it be great if those who are offering care, compassion, and assistance for this family member could have a few hours of much-needed rest, so they don't become depleted in meeting the constant needs of their loved one?

A small group of locals wants to provide a place like this, starting in 2026, where specialized services and care can be offered in a safe and ENJOYABLE environment (half-day or full day). Caregivers will have time to refresh and attend to necessities.

Estes Dementia Day Center (EDDC) will be developed as a nonprofit. It is currently working under the fiscal umbrella of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center in preparation to become an independent 5011C-3. Fundraising is ALREADY UNDERWAY.

Next steps in making EDDC happen in our community include hiring a well-qualified Executive Director and Program Manager in the fall of this year, find a facility and recruit a corps of volunteers and/or staff for training in best practices for this environment.

Relative to fundraising, our goal this year is to raise \$500,000 to ensure sustainability in the early years of operation. Salaries, facility expenses and financial support assistance to those unable to pay are the main budget items.

The Rotary Club of Estes Park is our first major donor committing \$25,000 toward our goal.

Further information can be provided by Chuck Bonza at cbonza1@aol.com 970-775-3555 or Pete Sinnott at psinnott22@gmail.com 970-577-7766

One Great Hour of Sharing

There is so much need in the world that we sometimes feel helpless. We want to respond to emergencies and help those in need both nationally and around the world but we often are not sure where our donations will be doing the most good. When you support the One Great Hour of Sharing each year, you know that the money helps not only those who are affected by disasters but it also provides support for “the least of these” who are either hungry or oppressed. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is present immediately after a disaster through its nearby churches to provide support both financially and personally. The Self Development of People works in partnership with various projects to help economically poor communities develop solutions to their own challenges. This empowers the people affected to work toward a better future. The Presbyterian Hunger Program doesn’t just hand out food, they work with low-income communities, teaching them new skills and providing them with items they need to bring sufficient food to their communities. An example is the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Fair Food Program that was named one of the 15 “most important social-impact success stories of the past century” by the Harvard Business Review. They provide worker-to-worker education sessions on-the-farm, have a third-party monitor to ensure compliance with the program, and the buyers of their produce pay a small Fair Food premium which tomato growers pass on to the workers as a line-item bonus to their regular paychecks. The United Nations Working Group on business and Human Rights has described the Fair Food Program model as a “smart mix of tools” that could serve as a model elsewhere in the world. Support to the One Great Hour of Sharing is a way to provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed, as Jesus called us to do in Matthew 25. Your gifts bring a beacon of love and hope in our world and put the power of healing into the hands of those who need it the most. Your gifts of love will be blessed on Palm Sunday. Envelopes are available in the pews.



Suspension of Stephen Ministry at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies

As of March 18, 2025, a consensus by the current active Stephen Ministers was taken to suspend this organization at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. This was not an easy decision for us. Careful consideration and conversation led to the conclusion. We all felt our time serving this congregation was blessed. The experiences and relationships we have gained have been amazing, and we will always remember those people we have served.

Unfortunately, we felt that the Stephen Ministry program is another casualty of Covid and has run its course. Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies does however have an alternative program, which is called Community Church Connections. It will utilize the talents of Stephen Ministers as well as other members of the congregation. More information about this program will be available in the coming weeks.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Groups and Events



Do you know a young adult who is looking for connection?

Pastor Christine is interested in starting a young

adult group (roughly 20-40) aimed at creating meaningful relationships within the context of our Christian heritage. We will explore our faith, questions, and purpose. If you know of someone who might be interested, please get Christine the information.



Lenten Psalm Study

For Lent, we will be embarking on a practice called lectio divina. This is an ancient practice where we read, meditate and pray on scripture, listening to how it speaks to us. We will be using the same scripture for all 6 weeks, getting deeper and deeper into the text, using different translations and even thinking about the Hebrew. That text will be Psalm 86.

Join Pastor Christine on Mondays at 3:00pm beginning March 10th through April 14 in the church Library.



PW Bible Study –April 21, 2025 Let Justice Roll Down



On Monday, April 21, Sue Yowell will lead Lesson 8 of the Presbyterian Women's Bible study, "Let Justice Roll Down." This month's topic is "Intergenerational Justice" with the discussion based on the story of ancient Judah found in the first twelve books of the Bible. That story ends with the demise of Jerusalem because that is the only information known by the Biblical author at the time it was written. The author of this study then shifts to our current story where we are uncertain of the outcome of our "own dramatic environmental story." We will look at how both young adults and those of "older adulthood" can work to save the future for our children and grandchildren. We will gather at 11:30 am in the church library for a brief social time, with the lesson beginning at 12 noon. This lesson will also be available via Zoom. Please let Karen Daugherty or Renee Warren know if you need a study book or if you would like to attend via Zoom. All women are welcome to attend. Please join us for this informative and timely study.



Palm Sunday Brunch

Mark Your Calendars!

You are invited to attend the annual Palm Sunday Brunch on Sunday, April 13, 2025, immediately following the worship service.

The Hospitality Committee will provide ham, potato casserole, rolls, and coffee/water.

The congregation is asked to bring a dish that will feed at least 8 people.

Last names beginning with A-R: side dishes, salads (no potatoes please)

Last names beginning with S-Z: desserts

We look forward to this special time of fellowship before Easter!



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.

April 2—Abram and Sarai; Genesis 12:1-20

April 9—Lot; Genesis 13-14

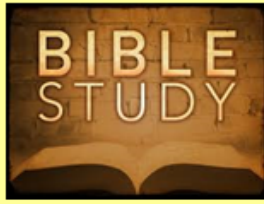
April 16—Covenant with Abram; Genesis 14:17-15

April 23—No Class

April 30—Hagar and Ishmael; Genesis 16

All are welcome!





Change of Time for Adult Study Group

Beginning in May, the Adult Study Group will begin meeting during the week rather than on Sunday morning. The schedule is not yet firm, but likely we will be meeting on Fridays beginning May 9. Exact time and place will be in the bulletin.

The class is open to all who want to expand not only their Bible knowledge but are interested in the reasons why and where and when did some of our faith beliefs begin. We are presently studying a video course "Listening to the Land of the Bible": how and why did the land itself influence the early Jewish people and later on the early Christians. In fact, this is the second time we have done this exact course — those in the class found it so full of new ideas that they wanted to do it again! You are welcome to drop in anytime (8:15am on Sunday until May) as each lesson stands alone and you won't be "behind." Class facilitator (i.e. pushes the start button) is Carol Nussbaumer, 970-586-2437, if you have questions.

Adult Study Group class schedule for April & May:

- April 6 "The Judean Hill Country" Part 1
- April 13 "The Judean Hill Country" Part 2
- April 20 No Class — Easter
- April 27 "Shephelah" Part 1 & 2

May 9 class moves to Friday. Check the bulletin for time

- May 9 "The Central Hill Country" and "Hills and Valleys of the North" Part 1
- May 15 "Hills and Valleys of the North" Parts 2 & 3
- May 22 "Hills and Valleys of the North" Parts 4 & 5 This completes "Listening to the Land of the Bible"
- May 29 A new study begins! We will discuss and decide during previous classes

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 April, Journeys will focus on racial and economic injustice issues in America. We will start the month with a review and discussion of the book *Caste* and end the month with a presentation by Rev. Carolyn Grice who works extensively on social and racial injustice issues in Omaha. The weekly schedule is:

- April 6 Discussion of Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste* led by Rene Moquin
- April 13 Discussion of *Caste* and *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander led by Rene Moquin
- April 20 Easter—No meeting
- April 27 Working Towards Social and Racial Justice in Omaha led by Rev. Carolyn Grice

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.)

Highlights from January/February Session Meetings

- ◇ Approved a contract with Taylor and Roth, CPAs, to conduct a full audit of the church finances this year.
- ◇ Scheduled communion dates for the year.
- ◇ Approved the five special offerings taken throughout the year.
- ◇ Approved the 2024 Statistical report.
- ◇ Moved to allow the Girl Scout troop that meets in our building to set up a cookie sales table in the narthex and to present a Minute for Mission to our congregation.
- ◇ Voted to approve the transfer of Leon and Diane Scruton to St. Peter by the Sea Presbyterian Church in Morrisville, NC.
- ◇ Approved removing Susan Underwood from the church rolls.
- ◇ Voted to dedicate the Mediation Trail in memory of Kent Dannen.
- ◇ Voted to change the Session meeting time from 6:30 pm to 4:00 pm on the third Monday of each month.
- ◇ Approved the following committee assignments:
 - Rebecca Chopp to Personnel
 - Jan Boatman, Tim Hull & Darin Workman to Worship & Music
 - Darin Workman to Membership
 - Fran McKinney to Hospitality

Highlights from March 17, 2025

- ◇ Heard a report from Building and Grounds that installation of the new carpet downstairs will begin the day after Easter.
- ◇ Learned that Colorado FEMA will continue any projects already in process, in spite of the possible dismantlement of the agency. (This relates to the grant from FEMA that PCCR received for the new security system.)
- ◇ Noted a report from Finance committee that the audit is currently underway, and a report is expected by the April Session meeting.
- ◇ Heard from Stephen Ministry that they may disband. No one is available to chair the group at this time, and Deacons have assumed much of the Stephen Ministry work.
- ◇ Learned from Presbytery that the PCUSA has abolished the Mission co-workers program.
- ◇ Approved Tami Scafe as a new member of Mission and Outreach committee.
- ◇ Approved Sybil Gardner as a new member of the Membership committee.
- ◇ Received a joyful report from Worship and Music that all the 250 new hymnals have been sponsored and purchased. Some extra money was collected, and it will likely go to purchase some large print hymnals.

Financial Information February 2025

	February	Jan-Feb	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$95,844	\$158,064	\$69,196
Total Expenses	\$54,229	\$84,000	\$84,529
Net Total	\$41,615	\$74,064	-\$15,333

*Revenue State of CO Grant \$40,000 & Carpet in Basement \$19,295

*Expense Carpet in Basement \$7,500

April

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		6	7	8	9	10
		11	12	13	14	15
		16	17	18	19	20
		21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30
		31				