



Volume 13, Number 7



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

July 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.



**Kent Dannen Meditation Trail Work Crew
from Presbyterian Church of the Cross**



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



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

July 6 — 10:00am Communion; Chancel Choir

July 13 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; All Church Picnic

July 20 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Columbarium celebration

July 27 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Carolyn Hull's Retirement Party

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".

Join us for a **Celebration of the Saints at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies** along with a commemoration of the **40th anniversary of the Columbarium** immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, July 20th at the columbarium.**



July 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Dear friends,

One of the most important religious and historical sources from our tradition are the 10 commandments. They are the cornerstone not only of Judaism but also Christianity. And, yet, we as Christians sometimes have trouble understanding the relationship between Jesus and these early instructions. This upcoming July, I am going to look at the law, in particular, the 10 commandments, and ask us to what extent these laws have bearing on our lives as Christians. We know that Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them," (Matthew 5:17) but we also know that Jesus said, "I am the new Covenant" (Luke 22:20). So does the Law matter in our Christian world? We will seek to answer that question and others. For example, did you know that the 10 commandments are not the same in the different occurrences of scripture? Did you know that many of the commandments parallel "rules" by other ancient peoples? Did you know that scripture tells us of 2 sets of stone tablets containing the 10 commandments?

Beyond these interesting questions, I think more people wonder if the 10 commandments are binding on Christians. Afterall, we might question whether the Old Testament still has bearing on our lives as, it might seem, that the New Testament has replaced it. Nineteenth-century Biblical scholar Friedrich Schleiermacher believed that Christians should not use the Old Testament at all as Christ had come to replace it. In his view, Christians only needed the Good News of the Gospel.

Yet, here we look at this quote by Jesus wondering if that criticism about the Old Testament is misguided. The answer is, yes, For we recognize the broad arc of scripture and God working through creation from the beginning to the end and that God's creation is good and that God has always sought reconciliation with us. It is a recognition that God's being is constant, unwavering and desirous of a relationship with creation.

As we start this journey through the 10 commandments, let us remind ourselves that Jesus preached the greatest commandment which is to love our neighbors as ourselves. This statement by Jesus sets the tone for how these 10 commandments can shape our relationship with God and one another. When we love God, we put aside our own needs and wants and concentrate on living in harmony with God who gives us life. And then, we can work on loving each other and creating a world where we live in harmony.

Friends, I am looking forward to this month of worship and study.

Grace and Peace,

Christine



Work on the Kent Dannen Memorial Meditation Trail

Special Thanks to the volunteers from
The Presbyterian Church of the Cross



Thank you....

Dear PCCR family,



Thank you so much for the cards and beautiful flowers for our dear mother and mother-in-law. She was a very special person—a baby whisperer and the architect of family get-togethers. We will miss her dearly, but she is now at home with her life-long partner Jerry, her high-school sweetheart and beloved husband of so many years.

Mike and Christine



Worship on Wednesday

July 23 & 30

August 6 & 13

5:00pm at the Outdoor Chapel

Invite the community to attend a very informal time of gathering, sing "campfire hymns" led by Kent Meyer and Dot Rohrbaugh on guitars and hear a brief meditation by Pastor Christine.

Come as you are! This gathering is for ALL faiths and all ages.



Crossroads Donations Update

DID YOU KNOW?

PCCR's donations of food and necessary paper products total 404.5 pounds so far this year, not quite half of our goal of 1,000 pounds.

Please join your Mission and Outreach Committee by giving cheerfully to our Market Grocery Cart each month. Remember, your gifts help feed families with children out of school for the summer.

Thank you, Your Mission and Outreach Committee





PCUSA Global Ecumenical Partnerships

Our denomination, Presbyterian Church (USA), has been making many changes to its international mission agency. One major change is the name of the agency. What was previously known as **World Mission** is now called **Global Ecumenical Partnerships**, a new form of engagement in God's mission around the world. Under World Mission, our denomination's Mission Co-Workers were sent to other countries at the invitation of in-country partners and served alongside those partners as co-workers. It was a model of doing God's mission in mutuality, rather than a paternalistic and colonial approach that had prevailed in international mission work for many decades.

Through the years, Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies (PCCR) has supported many Mission Co-Workers who were assigned by the denomination's World Mission agency to serve in various countries. PCCR members Dave and Sue Thomas served as Mission Co-Workers in México from 2001 to 2012 and are now both retired from World Mission. More recently, PCCR has been supporting Mission Co-Workers Chenoa Stock (Peru) and Rev. Tyler Holm (Malawi). All of our denomination's Mission Co-Workers have ended their service in 2025, as The Interim Unified Agency, formerly the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Office of the General Assembly, has restructured World Mission to become Global Ecumenical Partnerships. Some former Mission Co-Workers are now working in this new form of global ministry.

Instead of having Mission Co-Workers assigned worldwide, PC(USA) now has Global Ecumenical Liaisons (GELs) and Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) engaging in life-transforming ministries in 80 countries (including the USA), working with partners worldwide who help us understand issues in their local contexts. Through these GELs, PC(USA) is collaborating with other faith traditions at home and abroad, engaging with leaders and communities to discern and respond to the call of the Holy Spirit in today's world. The GEL assigned to our regional synod, the Synod of the Rocky Mountains, is Rev. Princeton ~~Abarona~~.

In many respects, "the world has come to the U.S." as there are diaspora communities of multiple nationalities spread across the United States. In addition to many people from Latin America (México, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, etc.), there are also communities from Southeast Asia, former Soviet-bloc nations, various countries in Africa, the Middle East, and many other places. These people bring their Christian faith with them to our country, and PC(USA)'s Global Ecumenical Partnerships will seek to do God's mission with these groups as part of its "inward-focused" ministry. The "outward-focused" portion of the restructured agency will continue to foster mission partnerships at scattered locations around the globe.

Exciting news! The new security system is up and running at PCCR!

We now have cameras installed in locations both inside and outside the church building that will monitor activity. All exterior doors have changed over to



electronic locks so any entry keys that you may currently have will no longer work. All access to the church is now through a "digital key" system and those who require entry are currently being contacted.

As always, the main doors to the church will remain unlocked during office hours, **Monday through Thursday between 9:00am and 3:00pm** if you need to come by.

It is more important than ever to notify Brenda in the office if you make any changes to scheduled meetings or events so she can make sure the building is open and ready for you.



An Update from Mr. Kayira on the Gift of Blankets:

I'll impact on the lives of beneficiaries and the communities.

1. The intervention has resulted in improved health and well-being in the targeted households. The blankets are providing warmth and comfort, reducing the risk of illnesses like pneumonia and malaria; and improving overall health in pregnant women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities amongst others.

2. The blankets have enhanced dignity and self-worthiness to the beneficiaries as most of them are often segregated and suffer from stigma and discrimination. They are often forgotten and marginalized.

3. The activity has restored hope, reminding them that they are not alone and that there are people who care for them.

Here are a few testimonials from the beneficiaries:

"I have been struggling to keep myself warm at night, but now I have a blanket which keeps me warm and protected. Thank you." Gogo Phiri said.

"The blanket has brought much joy and comfort. Now am able to sleep like a baby. I do not dose during lesson in class anymore; because during the night I have enough sleep," said Dembire Mughogho.

"I have been warming by covering myself with a torn and worn out cloth. During the night, I have been married to fire. But now, I have a nice blanket from the Good Samaritans," said Nyagondwe.

We are deeply grateful for your support to the Blanket Distribution Project. Your funding has made tangible differences in the lives of beneficiaries and the project is honored to have you as partners in order to serve the most vulnerable people.

The future plan is to continue providing essential items like blankets to other vulnerable individuals. I would like to acknowledge and appreciate your trust in the project. Please receive our heartfelt thanks; and may God bless each one of you.

Yours sincerely,

Leman Kayira



Grace and Grub at Endovalley; Rocky Mountain National Park June 23, 2025

Once more, the outdoorsy folks of PCCR revisit this daytime picnic area in Rocky for fellowship and the cook-your-own hotdog experience we all remember. But wait! There's more! Participants bring special food to accompany the feast, showing off culinary fixings for a hot dog meal and special desserts.

The Jacobs and Osborne families got there early to start the fire and set up the whole affair in a perfectly wooded setting with that spectacular stream right across the road from the site. It's a time for sensing the forest, partaking of the campfire aromas, fellowship with long time friends, returning summer residents, and getting to know new parishioners. This is a 'must do' event for newcomers to get to know people. This week a new family of a ptarmigan mother and her chicks said hello.



40 came last night providing lots of fellowship, smiles and laughter. Hulda Bachmann returned to the park after an absence of 10 years and ate her first hot dog ever. They use a knife and fork on sausages in Holland, you know.

Bob and Joy Holcomb instigated and have been coordinating this event for 14 years. 8 people came in the beginning and now there are 80 on the mailing list. Let Joy know if you'd like to join the list at joyholcomb11@gmail.com Besides picnics like last night in the park, there's a pizza party, Christmas brunch, pancake supper fundraiser for Crossroads. It's a mission of love and giving back by Joy and Bob that has brought another way for us all to stay in touch.



PCCR Mission Fair 2025



Groups and Events



SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, July 13

11:00 am

*Join us for fun, food,
and fellowship!*

***You are invited to our All-Church Family Summer Picnic
to be held on our church patio and Fellowship Hall!***

The Hospitality Committee will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, water,
and paper supplies. If you would like anything else to drink, please bring your own.

Dress casually for church and bring your food to the church kitchen.
The picnic begins immediately after worship.

Bring a potluck dish to share using the suggested list below:



A through H Salads
I through N Baked beans or other vegetable dishes
O through T Desserts
U through Z Miscellaneous (chips, etc.)



Retirement Party for Carolyn Hull

**Sunday, July 27 in Fellowship Hall
Immediately following the worship
service**

Come celebrate with us as we thank
Carolyn for the many years of service she
has given PCCR as Financial Manager and
wish her well as she begins this new
chapter in her life.

*A basket for cards will be available in the Narthex
if you wish to leave her a message.
All cards will be given to her at the party.*

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

Wednesday Bible study will conclude
the first half of Genesis with:

July 2—"Binding of Isaac"
Genesis 22:1-29

July 9—"Sarah's Death"
Genesis 23:1-20

July 16—First half review

Bible study will take a break through
the last two weeks of July and all of
August and will resume on
September 3rd.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!



Not Your Mother's Sunday School



The Adult Study Group (a.k.a.
Not Your Mother's Sunday
School) continues to meet

Friday mornings at 10:00 in the church library.
We are beginning to follow the life of Jesus and
how the land itself impacted His ministry. For
example: the small town of Nazareth sat on a
raised plateau—sort of like a mesa. The
international trade routes went all around the
base but never came up to the town. So they
could maintain their faith practices without
interference. Jesus likely sat on the edge of the
plateau and looked out over the plains where
many of the famous Bible stories took place.

We welcome anyone who wants to explore the
Faith from different angles or who likes to join
in discussions (sometimes sharing our own
ignorance!).



Rocky Ridge Music Center Outreach Concerts

Two concerts in the Outreach Concert Series remain in the month of July.
Both concerts will be held in the Sanctuary of PCCR. All are invited.

Faculty Concert: Thursday July 3rd will feature youth program faculty at 5:00pm

Student Concert: Middle & High School students on Thursday July 10th at 3:30pm

To find out more about Rocky Ridge, go to their website at rockyridge.org. All donations are
greatly appreciated.

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 will be on summer break during July and August and will resume on September 7th.

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

Session Highlights from June 30, 2025

- ◊ Received the audit report, stating that PCCR financial records are in good order.
- ◊ Approved the baptisms of Tim and Carolyn Hull's grandchildren and of David and Katha Schweitzer's grandchildren.
- ◊ Elected Curtis Fox to serve as the Session representative on the Church Nominating Committee.
- ◊ Addressed issues with the sound system for the choir loft and the camera angle during the sermon.
- ◊ Recommended changing the Bylaws to have one active Elder and one inactive Elder serve on the Church Nominating Committee. Vote will be taken at the next meeting.
- ◊ Scheduled a Celebration of Saints at the Columbarium on July 20 following worship.
- ◊ Scheduled the All Church Picnic for July 13 at the church following worship.
- ◊ Scheduled the Retirement Reception for Carolyn Hull for July 27 following worship.
- ◊ Scheduled the Pie Social and Hymn Sing for Sunday, August 17 following worship.
- ◊ Scheduled a reception to celebrate Larry Gillum's 25 years of service at our organ for September 21 following worship.
- ◊ Approved the addition of Sibyl Gardner and Darin Workman to the Membership Committee.
- ◊ Noted that two more outdoor worship services will be held on the last two Wednesdays of July, and two more on the first two Wednesdays of August.

Financial Information May 2025

	May	Jan-May	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$79,992	\$317,834	\$172,989
Total Expenses	\$42,474	\$270,871	\$211,323
Net Total	\$37,518	\$46,963	-\$38,334

*Revenue State of CO Grant \$85,250, Carpet in Basement \$19,295 & Family Changing Room \$20,000
 *Expense Carpet in Basement \$10,500
 Greeley Lock & Key \$40,000
 Family Changing Room \$18,212

July

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group Lounge 2:00pm Summer Residents Assoc-Rm 6 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	2 9:30am Meditation Trail Task Force-L 12:00pm Bible Study-L 12:30pm Estes Nonprofit Network-Rm 6	3 12:00pm Stepping Stones AA-Juven Group-Lounge 5:00pm Ready Ridge Concert-S 5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	4 9:30am Card Making Group-L 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	5
6 10:00am Worship 11:00am Membership Committee-L	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH	8 10:00am Building Grounds-L 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 1:00pm Personal Counsel-L 3:00pm Worship & Music-L 4:30pm Deacons-L 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	9 12:00pm Bible Study-L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group-Lounge	10 8:30am EXNL Board Meeting-Rm 6 12:00pm Stepping Stones AA-Juven Group-Lounge 1:00pm Foundation-L 3:30pm Elder Edge Concert-S 5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR AA Group-Lounge	11 10:00am Adult Study Group-L	12 9:00am Church Picnic Set-up-FH 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
13 10:00am Worship 11:00am All Church Picnic-FH 4:30pm Nebraska Picnic-FH	14 8:00am Estes Nonprofit Network-FH 9:30am Finance Committee-L	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 2:00pm Summer Residents Assoc-Rm 6 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	16 9:30am Meditation Trail Task Force-L 12:00pm Bible Study-L	17 12:00pm Stepping Stones AA-Juven Group-Lounge 3:00pm Columbian Comm-L 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR	18 10:00am Adult Study Group-L	19 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
20 10:00am Worship Crossroads Donations 11:30am Columbian Remembrance Service-OC	21 4:00pm Session-L	22 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	23 12:00pm Bible Study-L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group-Lounge 5:00pm Worship on Wednesday- Outdoor Chapel	24 12:00pm Stepping Stones AA-Juven Group-Lounge 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR	25 9:30am Merry Martinis Lounge 10:00am Adult Study Group-L	26 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
27 10:00am Worship Retirement Celebration for Carolyn Hall-FH	28 9:30am Hospitality-L 4:30pm Grace and Grub- Rm6/FH	29 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 12:00pm PEO Chapter AV-L 2:00pm Summer Residents Assoc-Rm 6 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	30 12:00pm Bible Study-L 5:00pm Worship on Wednesday- Outdoor Chapel	31 12:00pm Stepping Stones AA-Juven Group-Lounge 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR		