



Volume 13, Number 8



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

August 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.



**Pie Social
& Old-
Fashioned
Hymn
Sing**

**Sunday,
August 17, 2025**



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: Darby Rand,
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 September Newsletter deadline is
Tuesday, August 19. Please send your
pictures and stories to:
office@pccrusa.org Thanks!**



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

**August 3 — 10:00am Communion; Jazz Service with the
Highland Brass, Verlene Thorp, Darin
Workman & the Chancel Choir**

**August 10 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Kent Dannen Meditation
Trail Celebration & Dedication**

August 17 — 10:00am Chancel Choir

**August 24 — 10:00am Chancel Choir; Guest minister
Rev. Chris Davis**

August 31—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".

A Letter from the Finance Manager...



This is Darby Rand, your new finance manager and the
latest addition to the PCCR staff team. Alaska's back
country is where I grew up, but Estes Park has been
my sanctuary all my life. My grandmother, Carole
Rouse, has lived here over 30 years and when I
became a missionary overseas, I made Estes home
base. From Nepal, to Costa Rica, to Honduras, I

traveled the world working in business ministry, children's ministry and anti-
human trafficking efforts. When God called me back to the states I was able to
pursue my passion for writing and finished several books currently being
queried for publication. While writing has been a lifelong obsession, numbers
and mathematics have always come naturally. After assisting multiple
companies with their bookkeeping and finance, I felt a call back into ministry.
Some of you may recognize me from the last few Chamber Singers concerts,
I'm the 28 year old with bright colored braids. I am so excited to join your
church family and I look forward to helping us continue to be good stewards of
all that God has blessed us with.

August 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

How do we learn? This is a question that has intrigued me for most of my life, so much so that I became a professional student and crowned myself as an expert in notetaking. (And, yes, I have all the notes I have taken in school since 9th grade.) My question for us is how did you learn about Jesus? Did you attend Vacation Bible School as a child? Maybe the Gideons handed you a New Testament and you read it? Maybe it was a framed poem that your mother put on the wall? Or maybe you learned to sing the "Alleluia Chorus" in High School? Whatever the case, you had exposure to the figure of Jesus, and you learned about him. Of course, in that learning experience you became familiar with the Bible, and the Bible helped inform you about Jesus.



How we learn about Jesus is central to our lives as Christians, for our learning is not just about the person of Jesus but also the nature of Jesus. Jesus is not simply a person that we desire to mimic, but our Lord and Savior who nurtures us, encourages us, comforts us and leads us. It is scripture that teaches us about the full person of Christ. When we enter the scripture "about Jesus" we tend to look at the words one-dimensionally. We read a gospel passage and then we seek to apply the message to our own lives. We traditionally do this by pulling it apart into a section of scripture, or a pericope, and while we might put the piece into the context of Jesus' journey, we fail to dig deeper into the purpose of Jesus' lessons and into the structure of the gospel itself.

Scripture is deeper than this level of interpretation, and as we encounter in Jesus the breadth of scripture, we learn not only what he said but also how he said it. In other words, the scripture provides us with a window as to how Jesus taught his disciples. For the month of August, the Revised Common Lectionary takes us through several chapters of Jesus teaching. We will learn how Jesus teaches through parable, meditation, prophecy, and action. In other words, we think of the scripture merely as words, but when we look at the description of how Jesus reached the masses, we learn that Jesus taught us through many means.

Of course, this is why it is so important for us to learn about Jesus through different avenues. In worship, we learn about Jesus through scripture and preaching, but also through song, fellowship and ritual. Beyond worship, we learn about Jesus in Bible study, mission, outreach and hospitality. And, outside of the church, we learn to put the words into action learning how Jesus transforms lives and hearts. It's not about notes, passing tests, fulfilling requirements, but instead learning that Jesus is the Christ, that he is transformative for our very beings. Tune in, in August, and let's learn together.

Grace and Peace,

Christine

PCCR in July



Annual Church Picnic



Carolyn Hull's Retirement
Celebration



Remembrance at the
Columbarium



Thank you, Thank you! Thank you!

What a lovely retirement party. The Hospitality committee exceeds excellence! It has been a blessing, and truly you all are a gift! I appreciate all the effort and love that went into my party today!!

I am grateful and blessed for the support I have received, as well as my relationships I have experienced from our congregation. While I look forward to my new adventure, I will miss being part of your team here at PCCR. I wish you peace and grace.

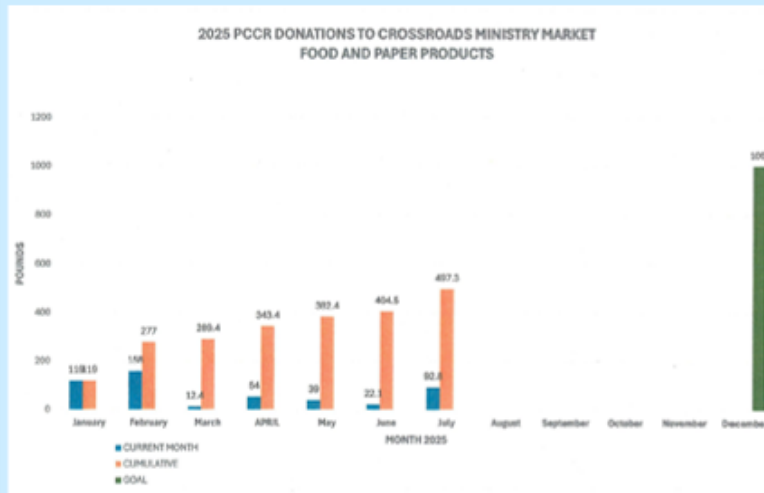
THANK YOU!! Carolyn ♥



Crossroads Donations Update

DID YOU KNOW?

The Market at Crossroads is helping more of our neighbors and many of them are first time customers. So, this is not a good time for Crossroads to have to deal with reduced food sources! Continuing fallout from the Safeway strike and less variety of nutritional food at the Larimer County Food Bank are making it more difficult to meet the needs of all of our clients.



Please consider giving joyfully to PCCR's FOOD CART whenever it's convenient. It's always "open for deliveries" and is in the Narthex every third Sunday of the month

Thank you, Your Mission and Outreach Committee



Presbyterian Women Bible Study Books Available for Fall

Each year Presbyterian Women join together to participate in a monthly Bible study, from September to May, using the study guide from Horizons Magazine. The Bible study for 2025/26 is titled *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. The study is authored by The Rev. Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter who has been a professor at several theological seminaries. In introducing this Bible study, Dr. Hunter shares the following, "In this Bible study, we will follow Mary the Tower (Mary Magdalene), Mary "of a certain village," the woman who was poor, the prodigal child, the woman who was bent over, the travelers on the road to Emmaus, as well as Jesus. These biblical characters and writers model for us resilience, joy, and finding our identity in Christ." It is the hope of Dr. Hunter that the witness of these characters will call us to a greater devotion and faithfulness. We hope you will join us as we journey through this study together.

We encourage you to pick up one of the study books on the back counter in the church office sometime in August. The cost is \$10 per book. There is a spreadsheet on the counter, so you can mark when you pick up the book and check when you paid. Please put your \$10 payment in an envelope (also provided), marked PW Study Book and include your name. Place the payment in Darby's mailbox (our new church Financial Manager) on the wall just outside her office. There are extra lines on the spreadsheet so if you don't see your name listed, just add it to the spreadsheet. We welcome all women to join in this interesting and meaningful study. If you are unable to come to the church to pick up a study book, please let Karen Daugherty or Renee Warren know, as they would be happy to deliver the books to you.

We will begin the study in September with the introduction and overview on Monday, September 8, along with a brunch. The first lesson will be on Monday, September 15. Watch for more information in the September newsletter. Please join us as we study and learn together.

BEARS IN THE DUMPSTER



We have had several instances recently of a bear trying to get into the trash dumpster here at PCCR. The first time, on Friday, July 11, he opened the dumpster and dragged a lot of trash out, scattering it around the yard and making a mess. This was because, while we had been trying to keep a wire tied through the bar on top, someone had not replaced it, allowing the bear an easy opportunity. We also discovered that we have had instances of outsiders placing their trash in our dumpster.

As a result, we have now placed a digital padlock on the dumpster. The combination for the lock is posted inside the basement door leading out to the dumpster, as well as on the wall in the kitchen, just above the trash can.

We had another visit from the bear, after placing the padlock – but with very different results. On Saturday, July 26, a bear tried to open the dumpster, unsuccessfully. He did manage to move the dumpster and roll it part way down the driveway but did not get in.





Annual Miniature Golf Outing

For over 20 years, the PCCR Mission & Outreach Committee has sponsored a fundraising golf event to provide financial support for PC(USA) mission co-workers serving through Presbyterian World Mission. Again this year, we're having a miniature golf outing for fun, fellowship, and fundraising. Proceeds from this event will support **Global Ecumenical Partnerships**, the denominational agency that has replaced World Mission.

The 2025 PC(USA) Mission Benefit Mini-Golf Outing will be held at the beautiful Cascade Creek course at Ride-A-Kart, located at the corner of U.S. 34 East and Mall Road. The Mission and Outreach Committee of PCCR is grateful to the owners of Ride-A-Kart and Cascade Creek – Kelly and Andrew Kessler – for the generous support they have extended to our church for the use of their course.

The outing will start promptly at **5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 8th**. Entry fees are:

\$30 per each person (age 21 and over)

(Child/youth fee) \$1 per year of age up to 20 years



Contributions from non-players are definitely welcome and encouraged, so even if you can't play that day, you can still help our local church support our denomination's global mission efforts.

Get your team together and come out for a fun evening of fellowship!





Music Ministry

"Those who sing, pray twice." This often-quoted phrase has its origins stemming all the way back to the early Christian church and is attributed to St. Augustine (354–430AD). It is the mantra of both church choirs and congregations alike. Music has been at the center of worship going as far back as 4100BC with the Sumerians and the Greeks around 3000BC. Christian hymnody has its roots in the Jewish tradition and the Cantor chanting the Psalms. This led to Gregorian Chant under Pope Gregory and the beginning of western music as we know it. The purpose of the hymn was/is to praise God. However, the hymn is the text not the music which is why we use the term "hymn tune."

This nearly 6,000-year tradition almost ended in the early 1960's with the movement to bring young people back to the Catholic Church by introducing the "guitar mass." Then many evangelical churches took it much further by eventually adding full rock bands with videos. Churches decided to do away with much of the great organ music of the past and church choirs became "Praise Choirs," and services focused more on entertainment than on the worship of God.

Patti, Larry and I act as the Ministers of Music here at PCCR. Each one of us strives to maintain that 6,000 years of musical tradition within the worship service by choosing music that reflect not only the message of the day but also making sure that it follows our Reformed theology. We also understand that the music we select should be glorifying God, not entertaining the congregation. We all use the words of that old familiar hymn, "Give of Your Best to the Master," when considering the music we choose.

A major part of our music ministry is to provide the opportunity for members of the congregation to give their talent in the praise and glory to God through the church choir, bell choirs and other special music. It is here that corporate worship finds fulfillment. It is here that, "Those who sing pray twice," come to fruition. However, members of the congregation should also experience this as they sing hymns. Hymns are always selected by the pastor and are meant to underline the morning's message. So, sing and enjoy the wonders of those hymns as you worship.

I am proud to say that I have just finished my sixty-third year as a church choir director and acting minister of music. The joy and blessings that I have gained over the years from working with wonderful, dedicated singers has far outweighed what I have given, and I continue to dedicate myself to carry on the thousands of years of musical tradition in worship.

Rich Dixon, Chancel Choir Director

Groups and Events



"Bake or Buy, Bring a Pie"

Pie Social

and Hymn Sing

Sunday, August 17, 2025

***11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
immediately following worship***



The Hospitality Committee

invites you

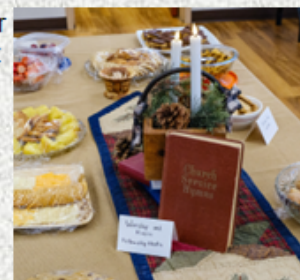
***to join in the fun, music, fellowship,
and of course, enjoy the delicious pies!***

**Bake or buy a pie to share
and bring it
to the church kitchen
before worship.**



Are you someone who loves sharing coffee, treats and fellowship after service on Sunday mornings? Are you wishing that you could help but are currently not a member of a committee or organization in the church? The Hospitality Committee is looking for volunteers like you! No major commitment other than providing a treat and helping set-up or clean up once or twice a year. No experience needed!

If you are interested in helping, contact Terry Brigham at tfe.b@hotmail.com



Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

Bible study will take a break through the month of August and will resume on September 10th.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and stay tuned for more topic information!



**Worship on Wednesday
5:00pm—Outdoor Chapel
August 6 & 13**



Celebrate the Dedication of the Kent Dannen Meditation Trail

On Sunday, August 10th at the end of the worship service, the congregation is invited to join Pastor Christine out to the entrance of the meditation trail for the benediction and dedication ceremony.

Special thanks to Sibyl Gardner and the Meditation Trail Task Force along with all who donated their volunteer time and energy as they worked hard to complete the first phase of this very special project.



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 14th.

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



Financial Information June 2025			
	June	Jan-June	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$71,603	\$389,436	\$207,587
Total Expenses	\$66,633	\$337,503	\$253,587
Net Total	\$4,969	\$51,933	-\$46,000

*Revenue State of CO Grant \$85,250,
 Carpet in Basement \$19,295
 Family Changing Room \$20,000
 Employee Retention Tax Credit \$38,310

*Expense Carpet in Basement \$10,500
 Greeley Lock & Key \$40,000
 Family Changing Room \$18,212
 Greeley Lock & Key \$6,575

August

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30am Girl Meeting Group-L 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 7044B- RAAS 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
						2
						3
10:00am Worship 11:00am Membering Information Discussion- Lounge	1:00pm Membership Committee-L	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	9:30am Meditation Trial-L 12:30pm East Hampton Network-Rm 6 1:00pm The Good Chef Group-Lounge 5:00pm Worship on Wednesday Outdoor Chapel	12:00pm Shipping Stakes AA Group-Lounge 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	10:00am Adult Study Group-L	8 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
						9
						10
10:00am Worship 11:00am Meditation Trial Celebration	9:30am Finance Committee-L 10:00am Christian Ed Committee-L	10:00am Bookings & Council 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 1:00pm Personnel Comm-L 2:00pm Summer Residents Social-Rm 6 3:00pm Worship & Music-L 4:30pm Decision-L 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	10:00am Mission Outreach-L 5:00pm Worship on Wednesday- Outdoor Chapel	12:00pm Shipping Stakes AA Group-Lounge 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir MR	10:00am Adult Study Group-L 6:00pm New Member Party at Scoutmen	15 9:00am Set up for The Social FH RAAS 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 7044B- RAAS 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
						16
						17
10:00am Worship 11:00am The Social & Hymn Sing-FH Crossroads Donations	7:30am Easts Nonprofit Network-FH 3:00pm Babel Renaissance- FH 4:00pm Session-L	18 Newsletter Due 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Babel Renaissance- FH 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	19 9:30am Meditation Trial Task Force-L 1:00pm The Good Chef Group-Lounge	20 12:00pm Shipping Stakes AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Columbus-L 6:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir MR	21 9:30am Mary Martha-Lounge 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm Babel Renaissance-FH	22 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
						23
						24
10:00am Worship	9:30am Hospitality-L 4:30pm Grace and Grib- RAAS-FH	25 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Babel Renaissance- FH 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study -Rm 6	26	27	28	29 10:00am Adult Study Group-L RAAS 3:00pm Babel Renaissance-FH
						30
						31 10:00am Worship 3:00pm Private Memorial Service at Columbarium