



Volume 13, Number 9



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

September 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.



*Larry Gillum
Celebrating 25 years*



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 October Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, September 16**. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

September 7—10:00am Communion; Chancel Choir, Guest Organist Jill Hunt

September 14— 10:00am Chancel Choir; Special Congregational Meeting; Blessing of the Animals

September 21— 10:00am Bell Choir; Celebration for Larry Gillum

September 28— 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".

Sunday, September 14 Special Congregational Meeting

Immediately following the worship service

The purpose of this special meeting is for the election of officers to replace two vacant Elder and one vacant Deacon position.



September 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Saying "yes" to Jesus

Don't you wish you could have met Jesus in person? I often think about what an encounter with Jesus might have been like. I think my heart would have been filled with joy, hope, and love, with so much energy that I had to say "yes." And, honestly, when I think about it, those who asked to follow him did just that. When Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he called Simon Peter and Andrew to follow him, and immediately they said "yes" and followed. (Matthew 4:18-22) When he called to Matthew sitting at the tax booth to come along, Matthew said "yes" and followed him. (Matthew 9:9) Saying "yes" to Jesus is saying yes to the fullness of our hearts to fill the world with love and kindness, hope and promise.



Of course, we don't have Jesus in the flesh with us today, but Jesus still calls on us. "Follow me," says Jesus, "and I will make you fish for people." You see, Jesus is in the people business! This is life business and teaches us that our lives here matter and our lives in this cosmic age matter. Even though he is not here in the flesh, today, Jesus still calls us now to be agents of his peace. Here in this place, we are called to once and again say "yes."

As we enter fall, we have many opportunities to say "yes" to Jesus right here at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. First, we will be kicking off our yearly stewardship campaign, *Growing Forward*. This reminds us of where we started as the oldest Protestant church in town to a vibrant community that serves as a hub for everything from Girl Scouts to Alcoholics Anonymous. Say "yes" to giving to this community of faith allowing us to move ahead in God's mission. Second, our nominating committee will be looking for Elders and Deacons to serve on our leadership boards. We can't do the work of the church without people who say "yes." If you get that call, pray about how Christ is working in your life and your heart and consider serving on these important boards. Third, we will be celebrating Larry Gillum's 25th year of service to our church. Larry said "yes" a long time ago, and his "yes" has brought all of us closer to God. As you think about how God is calling you to respond, think of the ways that Larry and his music have nurtured your faith.

Friends, we are in a culture that encourages us to say no, but Christ calls us to say "yes" anyway. Yes to relationships filled with love, yes to work that leads to peace, yes to actions that promote hope, and yes to creating the Kingdom of God one person at a time.

Grace and Peace,

Christine

PCCR in August



Pie Social and Hymn Sing



Dedication of the Kent Dannen
Meditation Trail—August 10th



New Member Installation
August 10th



Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

Through participation in the PCUSA Peace & Global Witness Offering, collected on World Communion Sunday, October 5, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our Christian brothers and sisters in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world.

Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken world. 25% of the Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. 25% goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region. 50% supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our warring world needs us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.
 "When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot." Thank you!

Crossroads Donations Update



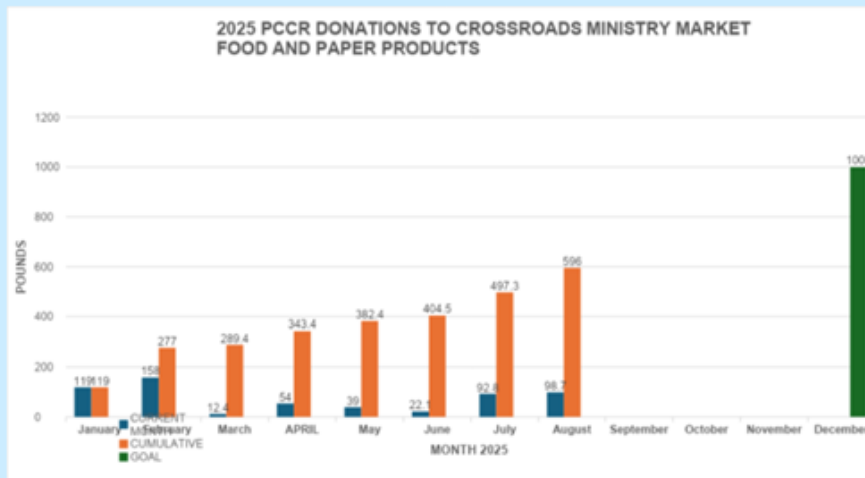
DID YOU KNOW?

The Crossroads Market loves to get perishable food. Fruit, vegetables, bread—
 you donate it: the Market customers will love it!

Since the Larimer County Food Bank is receiving fewer shipments of some basic goods, it's even more important to help the Market stay as stocked as possible so that Crossroads can continue to feed the community.

Last month, PCCR donated 98.7 pounds of goods to the Market. Let's beat that total to top 100 pounds in September!

Thank you, Your Mission and Outreach Committee



Meet the Staff: Larry Gillum

It was 25 years ago this September when a fortuitous path led me to Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. In 1997 I had retired from a lengthy double career in music education and music performance, and Brenda & I had turned our backs on life in the "fast lane." We moved to Estes Park where Brenda began work as an RN for Estes Park Medical Center, and I started my life of leisure. I had visions of my dog and me napping in the warm afternoon sun of our large west window, gazing at lofty Long's Peak. That state of mind persisted for only two weeks. Soon, this life of rest was abruptly interrupted by the need for music assistance in local churches. Then there was the high school choral director asking for help. I even agreed to play a recital in another church in town on that first Thanksgiving, and that's where I met another organist in the audience named Ray Young. Eventually I received the call from Ray: "Can you help me? I need a substitute organist." As it turned out, everyone everywhere needed substitute help. Brenda started singing in the PCCR choir, and I sang in the choir too when there was a free Sunday. Occasionally I'd even direct the choir when Betty Streiffert was away. Then there was a meeting with the three of us—Pastor Stephen Carl, Ray Young, and myself—resulting in the question, "Would you and could you join our music staff?" And the rest is history, as they say.



My story began many years ago in a hard-working farm family in the hills of eastern Kansas. Mom played piano and Dad occasionally played piano and guitar only "by ear." My humble hometown had nothing unusual but an amazing pianist and first-rate piano teacher. Her name was Grace M. Johnson, and she would become one of the major saints in my life. At the beginning of my first grade year, age 5, Mom had a little talk with her shy, timid, backward son: "You are now starting school and you will learn to read, write, and play the piano." I never questioned this curriculum and sometimes wonder where I'd be now had my parents never expected and supported it.

There were a few interruptions along the path. In those early years, my father concluded that \$1.00 for a piano lesson was beyond our humble budget, so I spent a couple of agonizing years with a 50-cent piano teacher who had been Mom's piano teacher in the historic past. That's when I learned the wisdom in the old saying, "You get what you pay for." Then there was a major bicycle accident that fractured my right hand and thumb, and our country doctor declared that I would never be able to play piano again. Well, I fooled him, and it was then when Dad decided that our budget could and should be rewritten, allowing the return to the "dollar lady" for piano instruction. The dollar lady, Grace M. Johnson, became my faithful mentor and inspiration for years to come. When I made the decision in my teen years to major in music at the university, it was Mrs. Johnson who doubled the weekly lesson to include both piano and college music theory, but the price for everything remained \$1.00.



At the age of 12, I was appointed official pianist for my hometown church in Mound City, Linn County, Kansas, an occupation that has continued for 74-75 years. My collegiate education was completed in two Kansas institutions. I earned a B.Mus. Ed. Degree at Ottawa University in music education with double performance majors in organ and piano. A few years later, I completed a M.Mus. Degree in organ performance at Pittsburg State University where my graduate recital was awarded honors status.

I concluded my 37-year career as a music specialist in public schools in 1997, but to date, I never retired from musical performance. Among these experiences were several years of working side-by-side with an incredible specialist in dramatic arts for children. Together, we wrote and produced our own shows and performances, then toured with our students, performing for other schools in Colorado and New Mexico.

"Show business" lingered awhile at a time when I found the need and desire to stretch out in new avenues of musical opportunity. I had a young family with two young sons, so there was also need for more income. It was then when I bolstered my confidence and subjected myself to a challenging audition in a professional live-performance theatre in Denver. At the startling surprise of winning the audition, I enjoyed two seasons as



Lead Pianist and Conductor at Country Dinner Playhouse, producing and playing eight performances each week in lengthy runs of Broadway musical shows, *Brigadoon* and *Oklahoma*. It was an incredible experience working with some very fine performers there who have sung on Broadway and at the Metropolitan Opera.

Over these many years I have had the privilege of serving numerous churches in Kansas and Colorado as Organist and Director of Music, have been a consultant for church organ-selection committees, and have played many dedicatory recitals. There were several years when I was organist for ceremonial occasions at the Denver Seminary, playing all commencements, convocations, and inaugurations.

I have been a member of the American Guild of Organists for 65 years, and my membership was sponsored by the Late Dr. Frank Asper, Senior Organist of the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City.

I am very proud, pleased, and grateful to have been your Organist on Staff since the first of September 2000, and am very thankful and overwhelmed by the amazing opportunity to renovate and enhance your fine pipe organ during this time. The instrument leading your worship is unique for a church in a small mountain town. I am frequently asked, "Why are you still working at this age of antiquity?" There are several answers to that question, but here is the primary conclusion: Over these 75 years of experience in church music, there has never been a congregation anywhere that has been more supportive, helpful, kind, and encouraging than our wonderful parishioners at PCCR. Your doors were opened to me at a time when I thought I had retired and it was all over, and with your warm, benevolent trust, I have been able to persist long beyond retirement age. You have blessed me with your generous and faithful spirit. You are our family. Thank you! God bless us all, everyone!

Larry

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Season of Peace —September 7–October 5, 2025

It seems that strife, war, and conflict are everywhere in our world and we long for peace. We pray for peace, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Whenever we gather for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace, the peace that passes understanding. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. The pursuit of peace in the name of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church. On World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation.

On September 7, we enter a **season of peace** sponsored by our denomination, designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration and education. Participants are invited to define and deepen their calling as peacemakers, to "Pursue what makes for peace." Romans 14:19

To use denominational resources, you can subscribe at their website (pcusa.org/subscribeSOP) to the daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox from September 7—October 5. Or email them to receive the entire set of reflections as a single file (special.offerings@pcusa.org). In your prayers, ask God to make you more peaceful, practice peace with people you encounter every day. However you decide to search for peace this month, best wishes on your journey. And may the peace of Christ be with you!



PW Brunch for All Women of the Church September 8—11:30 a.m.

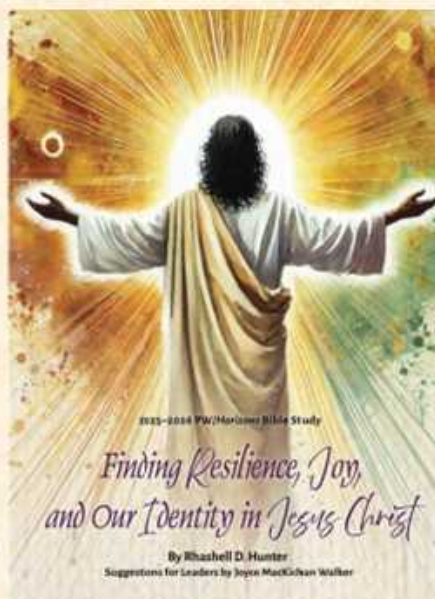
On Monday, September 8, all women of the church are invited to a brunch in the PCCR Library starting at 11:30am, hosted by the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women. The Coordinating Team will provide the meal, so all you need to do is come and enjoy fellowship with other women of our church.

Included with the brunch will be the introduction to the Bible study for 2025-26, titled *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*. In the introduction to the Bible study it states, "We all experience stress and anxiety at times, but there is hope. Sometimes, our life experiences get the best of us, but there is a path that offers healing and the ability to spring back into shape. There is a way that leads to joy and resilience. The way is by connecting to the One who sustains us in times of anxiety and confusion, our Savior Jesus Christ." Pat Waltermire will be presenting an overview of the Bible study after brunch. The Bible study books will be available at the Meeting for \$10 each. This year we have a couple large print editions available in addition to the regular study books. The study books are also available in the church office. This is a great opportunity to be in fellowship with other women of the church. We would love to have you join us!

PW Bible Study—September 15 *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*

After our introduction to the new Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, at the brunch on Monday, September 8, Presbyterian Women will meet for their first circle meeting of the year the following **Monday, September 15** in the church library. We will gather at 11:30 am for a brief social time, with the lesson beginning at 12 noon. Because the meeting occurs during the lunch hour, you are welcome to bring a sack lunch to eat during the meeting.

The PW Circle meets each month, from September through May on the third Monday of the month. In September, we will discuss lesson one titled "Mary Magdalene, the Tower" based on passages from John 11 and John 20. The main idea of this lesson is that "Our faith is strengthened by learning more about Mary Magdalene, a towering witness to the resurrection." The lesson contains some interesting new biblical scholarship that has been discovered in the last decade. We encourage you to come and join together in fellowship with other women of the church to discuss the ideas presented in the lesson. All women of the church are welcome.



Groups and Events



Come join in a Celebration to Honor & Thank

Larry Gillum

**As we commemorate his 25 years of service
as organist at Presbyterian Community Church of
the Rockies**

September 21st, 2025

Fellowship Hall

Immediately following worship



Reminder....

PC(USA) Mission Benefit

Mini-Golf Outing

5:00pm, Monday, September 8

Cascade Creek at Ride-A-Kart

US 34 E & Mall Road

For more information, contact Dave Thomas at
MexDaveT@gmail.com



***Blessing of the
Animals***

Sunday, September 14

**2:00pm at the
Outdoor Chapel**

Pastor Christine will conduct this special service to include pet family members in a celebration of God's love for all his creation. All pet animals—dogs, cats, horses, llamas, birds—are welcome to receive individual blessings as witness to our dependence on other creatures and our stewardship responsibility for their care.



Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

Hey all! We are starting up our Genesis Bible study again on September 10. This is a perfect time to join our little group if you are wanting to get involved. We are reading every chapter and every word making sense of the breadth of this text that provides that backbone of our religious identity.

September 10: Genesis Chapter 24
Welcome, Recap and Forge ahead—
The Story of Isaac

September 17: Genesis
Chapter 25—
Next in Line

September 24: No
class

October 1: Genesis
Chapter 26—
Like Father, like son?



Vacation Bible School Coming to PCCR Summer 2026!!



The new Christian Education Committee is excited to announce that PCCR will be hosting Vacation Bible School in the Summer of '26! We need **YOU** to help make it unforgettable! Whether you can serve behind the scenes, lead a group, or lend your creative talents, your contribution will help plant seeds of faith that will last a lifetime. If you're ready to join the VBS planning team, please contact Jennifer Workman at 620-309-8365 or ckworkman@gmail.com. Let's work together to make this Vacation Bible School a blessing for every child who walks through our doors!

Adult Study Group

In September, the Adult Study Group will be continuing a study of "Favorite Bible Verses," digging into Isaiah 53.

The Adult Study Group meets on Fridays at 10:00am in the small conference room located in the church office. Drop-ins 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.

Journeys will begin its fall session on September 14. An extended series is being planned on: **From Jesus to Christianity, the first 200 years of Christianity**. The study will cover the development of Christianity including a look at some of the early branches of Christianity that did not survive.

Journeys meets Sunday mornings in the church library. Gathering begins at 8:15 a.m., 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 line is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTClUT09>

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 AUGUST 18, 2025 MEETING

- ⇒ Noted that two of our Elders and one Deacon have recently had to resign from their respective boards.
- ⇒ Approved the Finance committee policy to provide a financial audit every five years, and a financial review each of the intervening years.
- ⇒ Discussed the new building access program and how members and church leaders will be able to access the building when it is not open.
- ⇒ Scheduled holding a Vacation Bible School in July of 2026. It will be open to all children in the community.
- ⇒ Approved a motion from Mission and Outreach committee to authorize the collecting of funds for PCUSA Global Ecumenical Partnerships (GEP'S) through the upcoming Mini-Golf event scheduled for September 8, 2025. This organization was formerly know as World Mission.
- ⇒ Extended a big thank you to Building and Grounds committee for the improvements in the sound system.
- ⇒ Scheduled September 21, 2025 for the celebration of Larry Gillum's twenty-five years of service as our organist. Yay, Larry!!!
- ⇒ Heard from Mission and Outreach committee that the national level of our denomination is working to redefine our mission vision and how monies are spent. They are considering coordinating with other major denominations.

Financial Information July 2025

	July	Jan-July	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$16,446	\$405,883	\$242,158
Total Expenses	\$37,372	\$375,373	\$295,853
Net Total	-\$20,926	\$30,510	-\$53,667

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

*Expense Repayment of ERTC Fees to Foundation
 Carpet in Basement \$10,500
 Greeley Lock & Key \$40,000
 Family Changing Room \$18,212
 Greeley Lock & Key \$6,575
 Greeley Lock & Key \$822.63

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study - Rm 6	12:30pm Estes Hospice-Rm 6 1:00pm The Good Grief Group-Lounge 2:00pm Karen McClure Memorial Service-S-FH 4:00pm Joyful Belts-S	12:00pm Shipping Stones AL-Ancor Group-Lounge 4:00pm Chancel Belts-S 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 7:30pm Boy Scout Troop 184-Rm 6	All Day Boy Scout Troop 184-Rm 6 10:00am Aqua Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	All Day Boy Scout Troop 184-Rm 6 9:30am Card Making Group-FH 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00am Worship	9:00am Estes Hospice-FH 9:30am Finance Committee-L 10:00am Christian Ed-CofE 11:00am PV Women-L 1:00pm Men's Ministry Committee-CofE 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 5:00pm Men-Golf Fundraiser-Cascade Creek Course	10:00am Building Grounds-L 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 1:00pm Renewed Commit-L 3:00pm Worship & Music-L 5:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:30pm Devotion-L 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study - Rm 6	10:00am Mission Outreach-L 11:00am Women's Club-FH 12:00pm Bible Study-L 4:00pm Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorus Rehearsal-FH	8:30am Estes Hospice-Rm 6 9:30am COCO Meeting-L 12:00pm Shipping Stones AL-Ancor Group-Lounge 2:30pm Staff Review-Rich 4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 5:00pm EVICS -Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	10:00am Aqua Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am Girl Scout Troop 7044-Rm 6 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30am Journey-L 10:00am Worship 2:00pm Eeking of the Animals-Outdoor Chapel 4:30pm Oatmeal Rehearsal-FH	11:30am Presbyterian Women-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:00pm Session-L	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study - Rm 6	10:00am Staff Review-Brenda 12:00pm Bible Study-L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group-Lounge 4:00pm Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorus Rehearsal-FH	12:00pm Shipping Stones AL-Ancor Group-Lounge 3:00pm Columbian-L 4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR	10:00am Aqua Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	9:00am Set up for Larry's Party-FH 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am Journey-L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Larry's 25 th Anniversary-Outside Donations 4:30pm Oatmeal Rehearsal-FH	4:30pm Grace and Grub-FH	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study - Rm 6	4:00pm Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorus Rehearsal-FH	12:00pm Shipping Stones AL-Ancor Group-Lounge 4:00pm Chancel Belts-FH 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge	9:30am Merry Wintus-Lounge 10:00am Aqua Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am Mountain Fairways HOA-FH 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 7044-Rm 6 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge
28	29	30				
8:30am Journey-L 10:00am Worship 4:30pm Oatmeal Rehearsal-FH	9:30am Hospitality-Lounge 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:00pm Boundaries Training-L	12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm EVICS-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study - Rm 6				