

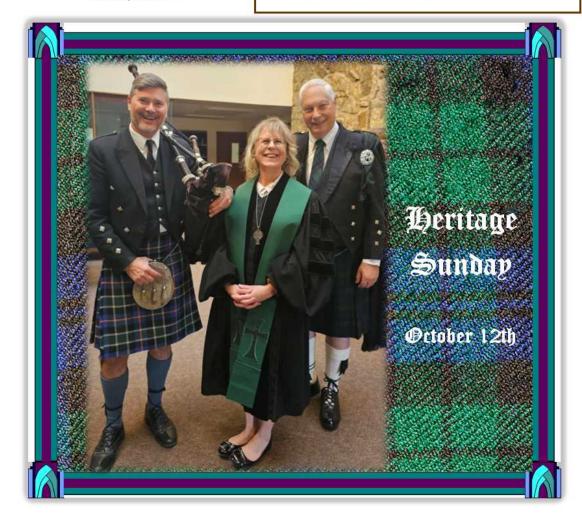
Volume 13, Number 10



October 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: 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, October 21. Please send your pictures and stories to:

office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

October 5—10:00am Communion; Chancel Bells, Guest Organist Jill Hunt

October 12 — 10:00am Chancel Choir, Bell Choirs, Piper Heritage Sunday/Kirkin O' the Tartans

October 19 — 10:00am Chancel Choir

on "View Bulletin".

October 26 — 10:00am Chancel Choir, Reformation Sunday

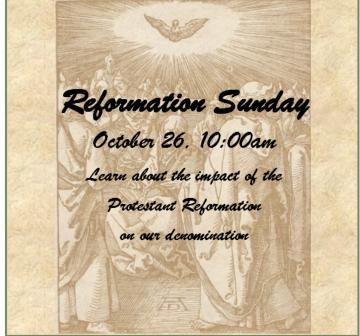
The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor Larry Gillum, organist

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



October 2025

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Gathering in

Fall is here! And yesterday, I became personally aware as a handsome bull and his harem took up residence on my driveway. Since I couldn't actually drive to my home, I observed the creatures, coming together on the grasses, lounging under the pine trees and moving to greener pastures. For me it was a metaphor for the fall, a sign of coming together, strengthening each other in number and sharing the gifts that God has given to us. In today's world, we often think about our lives in terms of "me" but fall reminds us that our world and the creatures that surround us rely on one another. Jesus teaches this as well, reminding us that we,



together, do the work of Christ and that we are united, together, as the body of Christ.

We know the language of the Body of Christ through scripture and in particular Jesus' words at the Last Supper. "This is my body that is for you, do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19). Often, we interpret this as the individual, but if we remember that this is a meal with Jesus and his disciples, then we realize that the "you" is plural, and that this meal, eaten together, is about the body of believers. In First Corinthians, Paul elaborates on the body explaining that the body is not made up of one but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12) He reminds us that we are baptized into one Spirit and that regardless of our differences we are called to serve God. As our hymn sings, "we are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord."

In fall we are reminded to embrace this coming together to serve God and that we are stronger in our service by the combining of our unique talents and resources. Fall, the gathering in, reminds us of who we are and what we can be to our world and our community together. The following are ways that we can gather in.

Growing Forward – This is our theme for 2026 Stewardship campaign reminding us how we are called to grow in our giving both in our involvement and in our financial resources. Please turn in your pledge and challenge yourself to increase your giving and your involvement and be excited to experience God's blessings.

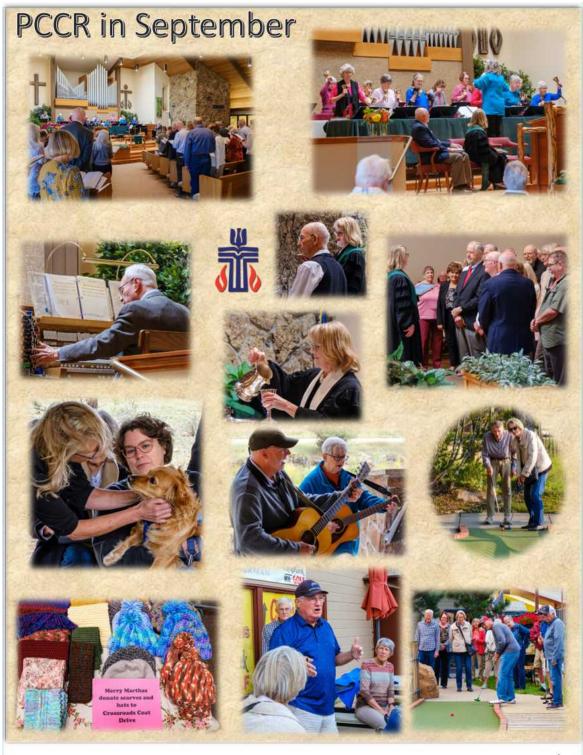
Heritage, Harvest and Tartans – On Oct. 12, we will be "gathering in" for our fall festival of soup after church and a celebration of our heritage. Our Presbyterian tradition is of Scottish origin, so many will be wearing their plaid, but our church is also represented around the world, so wear whatever costume or colors are part of your heritage on this special day.

Reformation Sunday – On Oct 26, we will celebrate the wider heritage of the church in the period of awakening known as the Reformation. When we think about the body of Christ, it is this period that celebrates the gifts of all believers and challenges us to use our gifts for the glory of God.

Friends, I am excited to celebrate your gifts. I am excited to gather us together in God's mission.

Grace and Peace,

Christine



Tawonga Chomeni!! (Thank You Very Much!)

The Mission & Outreach Committee sends a HUGE Thank You to the PCCR Congregation for your amazing response to the request for food assistance for the Embangweni School for the Deaf. We were floored and amazed and so very grateful to you when, in the course of one week, you gave \$1,250 to buy food for these learners. M&O decided at their recent meeting to add to that another \$1,100 from an Anonymous giver for a total of \$2,350. Whoever you all are, we thank God for your generous hearts and concern for those less fortunate. Your gifts mean that school will open for the 2025-26 school year. 194 learners will be fed and thus able to concentrate on their studies rather than their empty belly.

These gifts will be hand-carried to Malawi by Jim Nussbaumer when he goes there in September. They will be handed over in cash (Malawi kwacha), which means a much better exchange rate than we get by sending them from here through a transfer agent. This translates into more funds available for more food! Head teacher Mr. Misheck Kaunga promises to send us pictures of the children enjoying the food you have provided. Watch this space!

Uchindami kwa Chiuta

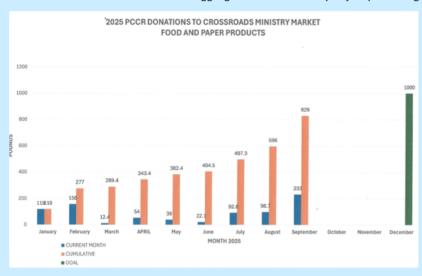
The Glory is God's Alone

Crossroads Donations Update



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2024, Crossroads Hunger Prevention Program provided over 14,000 nutritional snacks to students in the Estes Park School District. It's called KIDS PAK, and the goal is to nurture the well-being of local students who are struggling with food insecurity or just plain hunger.



This is another example of how your donations to the Crossroads Market help our community!

Thank you, Your Mission and Outreach Committee



Thank You, Dear PCCR Friends

I am unable to find adequate words for thanking you for your love and support in this time of celebrating my 25th anniversary as your organist. Your gifts, cards, letters, and good wishes on this occasion were beyond anything I could have ever expected or anticipated. And I'm still working on

the king-sized, 50-pound basket of pure chocolate.
You may even see its consequences soon! You are incredible, and it has been my joy and privilege to serve God with you.

Larry







Where's My Coffee?

If you are a coffee fan, you will have noticed shortfalls in what has been available during fellowship and for sale in the narthex. We purchase the coffee from the Café Justo cooperative in Mexico. The cooperative grows the beans in Chiapas, in southern Mexico. The beans are dried there, then are shipped to Café Justo's roasting and packaging facility in Agua Prieta in northern Mexico. Café Justo has not been impacted by tariff changes, as coffee roasted in Mexico and sold in retail packaging is exempt from the recent round of increases. However, Café Justo has told us that drier and hotter weather in Chiapas significantly decreased the yield for the 2024 harvest. The beans did not properly mature on the trees, and the harvest was delayed. We have certainly seen the impact. Café Justo could not fill parts of our orders for last year's Christmas season and has been short on some of our orders since then. The 2025 harvest is coming up. The picking season is from November to January. Hopefully, this year will be better, but Café Justo is not able to assure us that their production will return to normal, as uncertainties about the weather remain.

Many of you know that my granddaughter, Peyton Marie, contracted Covid in December of 2020. That viral infection led to her development of POTS, Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome. This debilitating condition has caused her to be essentially homebound since that time. She was 24 years old when this happened, and had just completed her first semester of teaching high school social studies in Wichita.

For over a year, I put her name on our prayer list, but then decided to remove it and just do occasional updates. I am thrilled to be able to give you a positive and hopeful account of her condition!!

In late June this year, her doctor in Kansas City, who has been working with Vanderbilt University to find some effective treatment for POTS, called the family and told them there was a trial program in place and he hoped they would want to be a part of it. Long story a little shorter....they signed up, and last July she was given two injections of a kind of nerve blocker. The results have been encouraging, and our family is so excited that Peyton might be on a road to recovery, or at least to some significant improvement!

Because it takes a viral infection to kick start POTS, there are now many more cases of it since the Covid virus is in circulation. The doctors have asked Peyton to keep a daily journal relating her experience with this new drug, so that they will have some anecdotal evidence to use with other patients. The research is critical to further development of a treatment and in giving hope to the thousands of new cases.

Thanks to all of you who have sent cards and messages to Peyton during these past several years. You have also been of immense help to her!

Barb Cole



Peace & Global Witness Special Offering



On October 5th, we celebrate World Communion Sunday, an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian Unity since 1940. That day, we also collect a special offering to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice."

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 and sinful world. 25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in Estes Park. 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, such as the nonprofit Guns to Gardens in Louisville, KY, which takes unwanted or decommissioned firearms and transforms them into something constructive and useful, like garden tools, art or jewelry. The program nurtures peace and growth instead of violence.

Another group which receives funding from this offering is Backpack Buddies in Virginia, a church effort to provide food to school students over the weekend. The director said "Even though you wouldn't think there's poverty here because we're pretty middle class, you'll find a lot of low-income residents. And because many in our community make minimum wage working in restaurants or food service, their families need the food to get them through the weekend." (There is a similar program here in Estes.) To help feed hungry people and end conditions that perpetuate hunger is another way we pursue peace.

This Sunday, be a bringer of hope and work for peace in our world by contributing to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Peace is Possible!

Gracious God, give us eyes to see where we can help make peace possible and the courage to pursue peace with faith, hope, and love. **Amen**



All women of the church are welcome.

PW Bible Study—October 20 Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

All women of the church are invited to share in the Presbyterian Women's Bible study held on the third Monday of each month, from September to May in the church library. This year's Bible study has three themes, "Resilience, Joy and Our Identity". On Monday, October 20 we will meet in the library to discuss the

second lesson titled, Mary "of a Certain Village." In our first lesson we learned new information and insights about Mary Magdalene, the Tower. In this lesson we will take a new look at the Mary and Martha story from Luke which draws a clear contrast between Mary's choice—
listening intently to Jesus and Martha's action—being worried and distracted by many things. 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. We encourage you to come and join together in fellowship with other women of the church to discuss the ideas presented in the lesson. If you would like a study book, they are available in the church office for \$10.

Groups and Events



Harvest Soup Festival

Sunday, October 12 at 11:00 am

Join us for lunch and fellowship!

The Hospitality Committee invites everyone to attend our annual Harvest Soup Festival after worship on **Sunday, October 12 at 11:00 am.** Each PCCR family is asked to bring a crockpot of hot soup to the Fellowship Hall prior to the 10:00 worship service. Cornbread and dessert will be provided.

Let's give thanks for our blessings.



Kirkin O' the Tartans

Sunday, October 12

Calling all Scots or want to be Scots to take part in our annual "Kirkin O' the Tartans" service on Heritage Sunday at 10:00am.

Heritage Sunday is set aside not only to celebrate the church's Scottish heritage but the heritage of all members of this community. Each of us come from a rich family lineage to be celebrated on this day. So, bring your tartan, a plaid, or any piece of checked cloth that reminds you of your personal heritage for this wonderful service of blessing.

Our piper Scott Beach, the Chancel Choir, combined bell choirs and of course Larry on organ and Verlene on piano will all combine their talents to enrich this very special service.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

We will be continuing with our Genesis Bible Study through the month of October. 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.

October 8: Genesis Chapter 27 The Significance of Blessing

October 15: Genesis Chapter 28-Omens, Dreams and Ritual

October 22: Genesis Chapters 29 & 30— The Sons of Jacob



October 29: Genesis Chapter 31– Going Home

Vacation Bible School Coming to PCCR Summer 2026!!



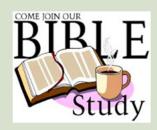
The new Christian Education Committee is excited to announce that PCCR will be hosting Vacation Bible School in the Summer of '26! We need YOU to help make it unforgettable! Whether you can serve behind the scenes, lead a group, or lend your creative talents, your contribution will help plant seeds of 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 ckcworkman@gmail.com.

Watch for updates coming in November!

Adult Study Group

The Adult Study Group, led by Carol Nussbaumer, meets on Fridays at 10:00am in the church library.

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.

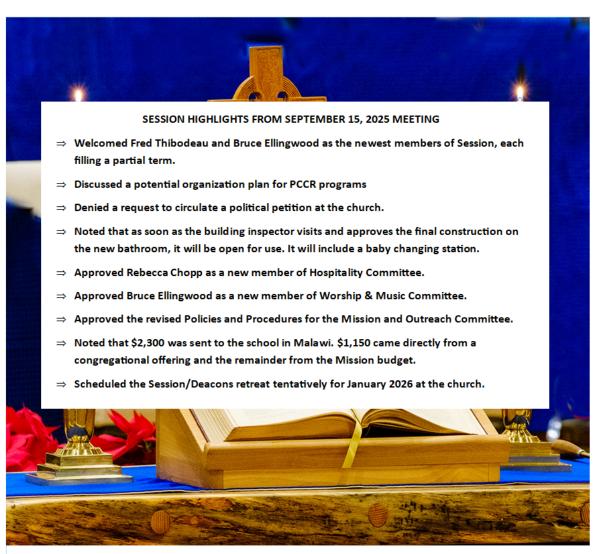
Journeys is studying the first 200 years of Christianity. The study is based on the Great Courses video series: **Lost Christianities: Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication**. The videos cover Christian history up until the canonization of the New Testament.

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=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTCtlUT09 Meeting ID: 845 741 2756 and Passcode: 80517 (only if necessary)

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





Financial information unavailable at the time of this printing

October

| 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship/New Member Installation 4:30pm Oratorio Rehearsal- FH | 26 | 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship 11:00am Membel information Decassion-Lounge Crossroads Donations 4:30pm Orationio Rehearsal- FH | 19 | 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am WorshipHeritage Sunday Harvest Fest-FH 11:00am Harvest Fest-FH 4:30pm Oratorio Rehearsal-FH | 12 | 8:30am Journeys-L 10:00am Worship 4:30pm Oratorio Rehearsal- FH | 5 | | | Sunday |
|--|----|---|----------------------------|---|------|--|----|---|---|-----------|
| 9:30am Hospitality-Lounge 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance- FH | | 11:30am Presbyterian Women L. 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance- FH 4:00pm Session-L | 20 | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Finance Committee-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance- FH | 13 | 10:00am Christian Ed-L 1:00pm Membership Committee-Conf 3:00pm Ballet Renalssance- FH | 6 | | | Monday |
| 9:00am Estes Nonprofit-FH 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm EVCS-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study - Rm 6 | 28 | 9:00am Estes Nonprofit-FH 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge AA Croup-Lounge APP C Chapter AV-L 3:00pm Balls feanssance-FH 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singer-MR 8:45pm Hispanic Bible Study Rm6 | Newsletter Articles Due 21 | 10:00am Building/Grounds-L 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 1:00pm Personnel Comm-L 3:00pm Bailet Renaissance- Fild Horship & Music-L 4:30pm Worship & Music-L 4:30pm Deacons-L 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singts-MR 6:43ppm Hispanic Bible Study- Rm 6 | 7. | 12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge 12:00PM PEO Chapter AV-L 3:00pm Ballet Renatssance- FH 6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study - Rm 6 | 7 | | | Tuesday |
| 12:00pm Bible Study -L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge 4:00pm Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale Rehearsal-FH | 29 | 12:00pm Bible Study -L 5:30pm GST 77845-Rm6 6:30pm Estes Park Chodale Renearsal-FH | 22 | 12:00pm Bible Study -L 1:00pm The Good Grief Group -Lounge 4:00pm Joyful Beits-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale Rehearsal-FH | 15 | 10:00am Mission/Cultreath-L 12:00pm Bibs Study-L 4:00pm Joyfull Bells-FH 5:30pm GST 77845-Rm6 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale Rehearsal-FH | 8 | 12:00pm Bible Study-L 12:30pm Estes Nonprofit- Rm6 1:00pm The Good Grief Group-Lourige 4:00pm Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm Estes Park Chorale Rehearsal-FH | _ | Wednesday |
| 4:00pm Charicel Belis-FH 6:30pm Che Day at a Time AA Group -Lourige 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR | 30 | 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group -Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR | 23 | 3:00pm Columbarium-L 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm EVICS-Rm6 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group -Lounge 6:30pm Chancel Choir-MR | 16 | 8:30am Estes Nonprofit.Rm6 100pm Foundation-L 4:00pm Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm CYCS-4rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir MiR 6:30pm Chancel Choir MiR 6:30pm Change Time AA Group-Lounge | 9 | 4:00pm Chancel Belis-S 5:00pm EVICS-Rm 6 6:30pm Chancel Choir MR 6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge | 2 | Thursday |
| 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH | 31 | 9:30am Merry Marthas-Lourge 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm Bailet Renaissance-FH | 24 | 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH | 17 | 10:00am Adulf Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH | 10 | 10:00am Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm Ballet Renaissance-FH | 3 | Friday |
| Conference Room Sanctuary Library Fellowship Hall Lounge Music Room Room 6 | | 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449- Rm 6 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge | 25 | 5:30pm New Member Dinner-FH 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge | 7 18 | 9:00am Set up for Harvest Fest- FH 10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449- Rm 6 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group -Lounge | = | 9:30am Card-Making Group-L 2:00pm Memorial Service for Merry Nielsen-SLEH 5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group-Lounge | 4 | Saturday |