



Volume 14, Number 1



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

## January 2026 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](http://pccrusa.org)

### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey,  
[pastor@pccrusa.org](mailto:pastor@pccrusa.org)

**Financial Manager:**

Tia Shultz, [finance@pccrusa.org](mailto:finance@pccrusa.org)

**Office Administrator:**

Brenda Dixon, [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org)

**Handbell Director:** Patti Dolezal,  
[music@pccrusa.org](mailto: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 February Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, January 20. Please send your pictures and stories to:**  
[office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org) Thanks!



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## Worship Schedule

**Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:**

**January 4—10:00am Communion**

**January 11 —10:00am Bell Ensemble; Installation of Officers**

**January 18 —10:00am Chancel Choir**

**January 25 —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".

## Annual Elder & Deacon Retreat

**January 26 & 27, 2026**

**PCCR Library**

**Monday, Jan 26—10:00am-4:00pm**

With New Elder & Deacon Orientation from

9:00-10:00am

**Tuesday, Jan 27—10:00am-2:00pm**

Lunch will be provided for both days



**January 2026**

**Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...**

Happy New Year! I know that you are all busy preparing for 2026 and what will happen during this new year. In our culture, years are very important. We organize our lives by years, our months, our days and our seasons. How many of you memorized “30 days has September, April, June and November” as a kid? And, of course, as a historian, I carry around a lot of dates in my head. As helpful as dates are, I do wonder to what extent they limit our ability to see Christ working in our world, where every day is a blessing in Christ. I know that for the year 2025, there is a social media mantra that “2025 was the worst year ever.” Such rhetoric takes us away from seeing the blessings in our lives and focus only on the negative, taking a whole year and throwing it in the trash.



While I am very excited about 2026, I want us to think thoughtfully about the blessings of 2025 – where we were blessed to act as the hands and feet of Christ, where we were able to welcome people into our church home and where we were able to reach others. Here are a few. For me, one of the highlights of our year was to complete the first phase of the Kent Dannen Meditation Trail. It came with sorrow as we lost a beloved member of our PCCR community but being able to celebrate his life with a completion of the meditation trail that captured his hope was one of the most beautiful experiences I have had in ministry. The completion of that trail segment is a turning point from the reminder of the flood from 2013 and a chance to provide a beautiful space for those seeking peace in nature.

Another highlight for me was receiving Thanksgiving for the many groups that use our church space. We have so many people that use our space from AA to EVICS, Girl Scouts to the Rocky Ridge Music Center, from the Oratorio to the Learning Center (and so many more). What I receive and you don't necessarily see are the cards of thanks, the donations from thankful groups, the appreciation that we open our doors. Keeping our doors open to the community takes a lot of staff time and extra vigilance from volunteers, but it is a way that we can “be the church” to our Estes Valley community. Perhaps my favorite day was watching the Christmas party for EVICS with the smiling faces of children as the highlight. I was moved when the EVICS crowd made sure that the obligatory Santa pictures also included our beautiful nativity. Bringing children into the joy of Christmas is a starting place for their faith journey!

Finally, I am so excited about all the energy that we are having in worship. We are so blessed to be able to maintain 2 bell choirs, a SATB chancel choir, a quality organ and the staff that makes these work. This is not just a dedication to traditional worship but worship that engages our congregation, upholds good theology and honors our identity. By living into who we are, we are bringing in people to hear the good news. Our Christmas Eve service welcomed 322 souls to our church, and we are continuing to reach people through our stream every week.

While I look forward to this upcoming year, I am so thankful for your hard work, your ethos of caring for one another and for your enduring hope. This list above includes only a few of the many ways that we have been the church, and I am excited how this same energy will help us grow into the future.

Grace and Peace,

Christine





## PCCR in December





## Presbyterian Women's Bible Study—January 19 Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

What better way to start the year than to find Joy? Sue Yowell will be leading our Presbyterian Women's Bible study on Lesson Five titled "The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor." The main idea of the lesson is that Joy in Christ is more than happiness; it can change challenging circumstances into faith-filled, even joyous times. On Monday, January 29, we will meet in the church library at 11:30am, with the lesson starting at 12:00 noon. Come join in the joy of fellowship and study with other women of the church. If you would like a study book, they are available in the church office for \$10. We hope to see you there.



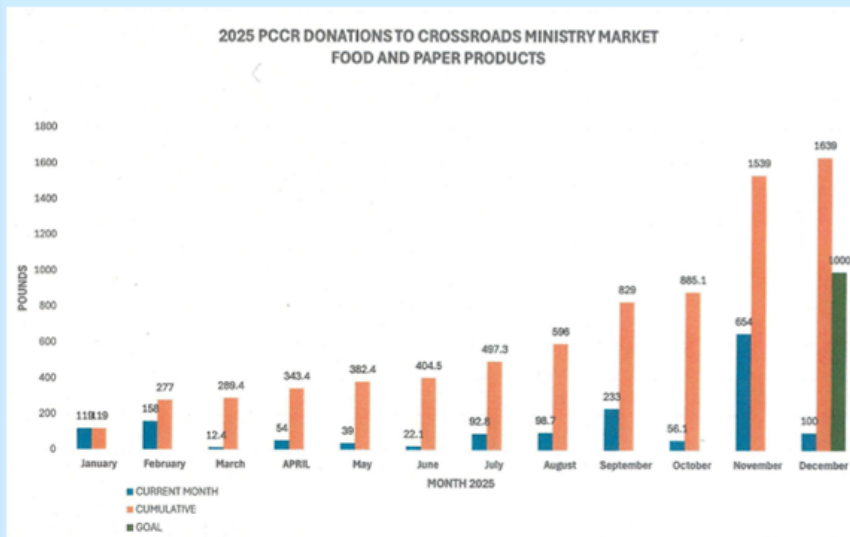
## Crossroads Donations Update



### DID YOU KNOW?

**You did it!** Thanks to your faith in action, PCCR donated 1,639 pounds of food and paper products in 2025; way more than 2024's total.

Your generosity blessed our neighbors in need with food for their families during uncertain times and gave them hope and promise of Christmas for this new year. Let's keep up the good work by setting an even higher goal for 2026.



Remember, the third Sunday of each month is our designated Crossroads Grocery Cart Donations day; however the cart is always available.

Look for information about a special Super Bowl of Caring coming in February.

With genuine thanks,  
Your Mission and Outreach Committee



### **Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine**

During the month of January, we will continue to study the book of Genesis. Everyone is welcome to join this special group at noon on Wednesdays in the church library.

January 7—"Dreams" Genesis Chapters 40-41

January 14—"Brothers" Genesis Chapters 41-44

January 21—"Reveal"  
Genesis Chapter 45

January 28—"Egypt"  
Genesis Chapters 46-47



### **Looking for interested helpers**

Our 2026 Fellowship host calendar is almost finished but we need your help. One of the new groups hosting Fellowship Hour in 2026 will be called **Fellowship Hosts** and will be chaired by Sue Thomas. If you are a new member of the church or would like to help with treats please let Brenda Dixon in the church office know and she will pass along your name to Sue. This will involve bringing treats two times in 2026.

Thanks for helping Sue out!



### **Adult Study Group**

The Adult Study Group (a.k.a. Not Your Mother's Sunday School) continues with various studies on Fridays at 10:00am in the Church library. Recently we have been "chasing rabbits" in chases triggered by our basic study of the Book of Matthew, roaming off into looking at some of the Biblical translations and why some appeal to us over others; a chance comment led to a look at the Dead Sea Scrolls. Who knows where we might wander next — come join us and add your thoughts to ours!



### **Six-Week Study: Augustine's Confessions**

Due to family medical issues, Rebecca Chopp's course on Augustine's *Confessions* needs to be rescheduled for later in 2026. If you have purchased the book, please start reading. Rebecca is happy to answer any questions or discuss what you are reading by phone or email.

Rebecca Chopp

610-425-0565 or [Rebecca.chopp@du.edu](mailto:Rebecca.chopp@du.edu)

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DECEMBER 15, 2025 MEETING

- ⇒ Heard from Deacons that they have prepared and delivered gift bags for shut-ins and those members that we don't see often.
- ⇒ Noted the need for renewing training on the AED equipment.
- ⇒ Received a report from the Finance committee that \$358,000 has now been pledged for 2026. That reduces the projected deficit to approximately \$42,000, down from \$72,000.
- ⇒ Voted to approve the hiring of Tia Shultz as the PCCR Finance Manager. She will be in the office on Mondays, and work from home additional hours during the week.
- ⇒ Noted that Membership Committee is hoping to improve signage in and around the church.
- ⇒ Approved the four special offerings collected during the year. These include the One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday, the World Communion Offering on October 4, 2026, the Christmas Joy offering during Advent, and the Presbyterian Women's Birthday and Thanks offering in November.
- ⇒ Elected Barbara Cole to serve as Clerk of Session for 2026, and Jack Boatman to serve as Church Treasurer for 2026. Peter Plaut was re-elected as President of the Corporation.
- ⇒ Approved the revised version of the Funeral and Memorial Service Policy. It provides flat rates for the pastor, keyboardist, other musicians, and facilities and services. Members receive a discounted price, while non-members are charged higher rates.

### Financial Information November 2025

	Nov	Jan-Nov	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$64,080	\$585,247	\$380,577
Total Expenses	\$39,671	\$600,455	\$464,911
Net Total	\$24,409	-\$15,208	-\$84,334

\*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 \$6,850  
                     Carpet in Basement \$19,895  
                     Grant Vendor Payments \$89,272  
                     Family Changing Room \$18,212

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Church Office Closed 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge	1	2 9:30am-Card Making-FH 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship	4 10:00am-Christian Ed Committee-L 1:00pm-Membership Comm-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH-Lounge	5 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Estes Valley Cammer Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	6 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 12:30pm-Estes Nonprofit Network-Rm6 1:00pm-The Good Grief Group-Lounge 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH	7 8:30am-ENN Board Meeting-Rm6 1:00pm-Foundation-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm-EVICS-Rm6 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:15pm-Girl Scout Service Unit-L 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	8 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	9 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
				14 3:00pm-Columbarium Comm-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm-EVICS-Rm6 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	15 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	16 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
11 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship/Installation of Officers 12:30pm-EVICS Children's Class-Rm6	12 9:30am-Finance Committee-L 2:00pm-Boundaries Training-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH-Lounge	13 10:00am-Building & Grounds-L 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 1:00pm-Personnel Committee-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:30pm-Worship & Music Comm-L 4:30pm-EVICS-Rm6 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	13 10:00am-Mission & Outreach-L 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 5:30pm-Girl Scout Troop 77945-Rm6	14 3:00pm-Columbarium Comm-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 5:00pm-EVICS-Rm6 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	15 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	16 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
				21 10:00am-VBS Meeting-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge	22 9:30am-Merry Murders-Lounge 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	23 8:45am-Girl Scout Troop 76904-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
CROSSROADS DONATION DAY 18 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 3:00pm-Adult Study Group-L 4:15pm-Oratorio Society-FH	19 Church Office Closed 11:30am-Presbyterian Women-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH-Lounge	20 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 12:00pm-PEO Chapter AY-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Estes Valley Cammer Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	20 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 1:00pm-The Good Grief Group-Lounge 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	21 10:00am-VBS Meeting-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge	22 9:30am-Merry Murders-Lounge 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	23 8:45am-Girl Scout Troop 76904-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
				28 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge	29 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	30 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
25 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship 12:30pm-EVICS Children's Class-Rm6 3:00pm-Adult Study Group-L 4:15pm-Oratorio Society-FH	26 9:00am-New Diacon/Elder Training-L 10:00am-Elder/Diacon Retreat-L-FH 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH-Lounge	28 10:00am-Elder/Diacon Retreat-L-FH 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Estes Valley Cammer Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	27 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 5:30pm-Girl Scout Troop 77945-Rm6 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH	28 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge	29 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	31 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge