



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

Volume 14, Number 1

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

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor@pccrusa.org

Financial Manager:

Tia Shultz, 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 February Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, January 20. Please send your pictures and stories to: 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.



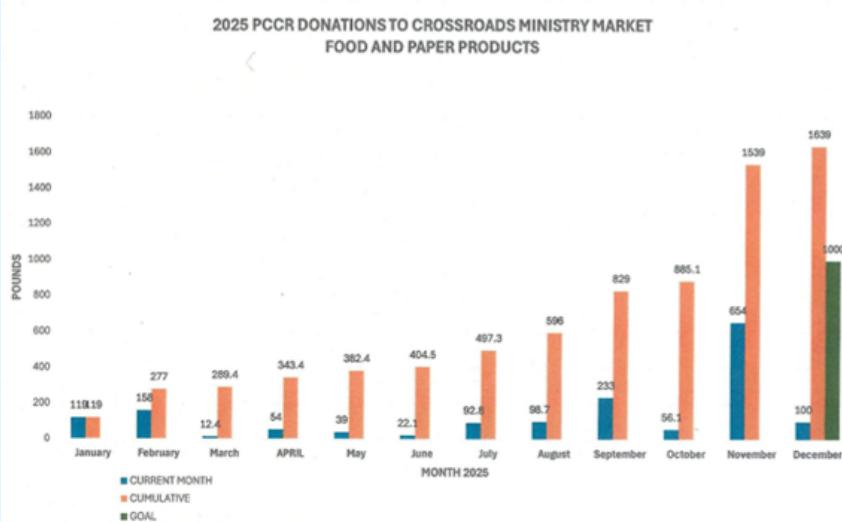
Crossroads Donations Update



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!

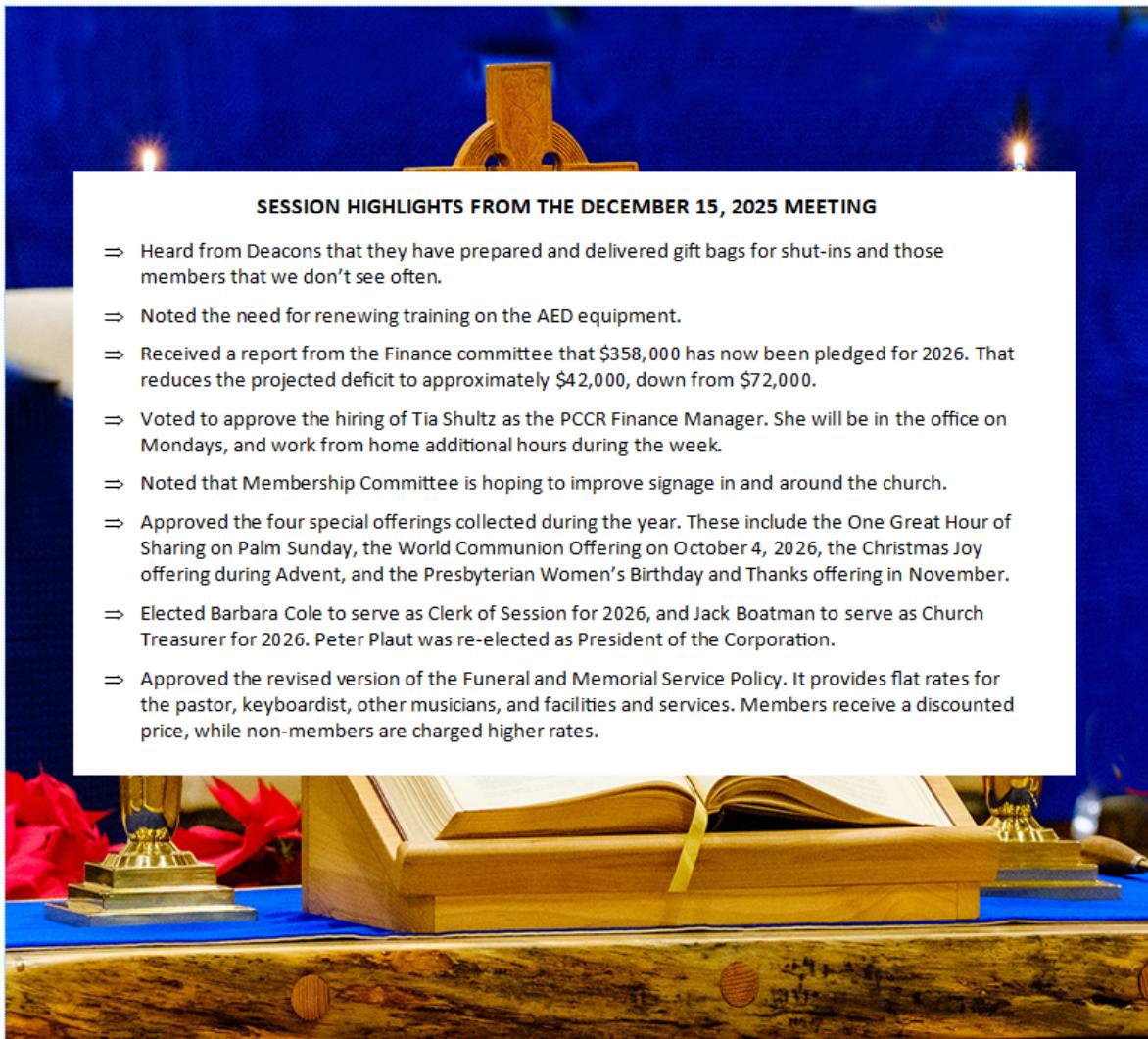


Six-Week Study: Augustine's Confessions

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



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

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