



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

February 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.

Volume 14, Number 2

Pancake Supper
Shrove Tuesday, February 17
4:30—6:00pm

Photo of five men in tan aprons standing behind a table with pancake-making equipment.



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 March Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, February 17. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

February 1—10:00am Communion: Chancel Choir

February 8—10:00am Chancel Bells; Annual Congregational Meeting

February 15—10:00am Chancel Choir & Joyful Bells

February 18—5:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

February 22—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".

Introducing our new Financial Manager

Tia Shultz

Stop by the office on Mondays from 9:00 am-3:00pm or Wednesdays from 10:00am-1:00pm and introduce

yourself. She would love to meet you.



Welcome to the PCCR family, Tia!

February 2026

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Friends, we are in turbulent times. We cannot escape "bad news", and the reports of violence, natural disaster, name-calling, and rage fill our screens. It leads us to the question, "How are we the church in these times?" "How does the Good News of the Gospel outshine the dark?" I couldn't help but think of the times that the church has persevered in the middle of the darkest times. The church, the true church, has survived through Roman persecutions, the Black Death, the Great Depression, World War II, Apartheid. The promise of Christ is that hope in those darkest hours – the good news of hope and peace and love continue to carry us. As theologian Jürgen Moltmann says, "God weeps with us so that we may one day laugh with him."



But I went further, how do we remove ourselves from the anxiety and fear that is imbedded in our current world? When our fear is real, how do we take our claim that we trust God and put it into action? Well, I went to the practice pastoral letters – these are the letters of Timothy and Titus written to give these pastors advice on how they can lead their congregations. It is important that we do not read these letters out of context, for these are written to individual pastors in the ancient world. Our world today is not the same one that they lived in and yet, we get a raw vision of hope and the call on the church to remain strong. Paul, in his letters to Timothy, advises him on how to persevere in Christ. First, as Paul suggested to him that his congregation should not battle over words, news stories and things that cause division. Instead, they should try to do their best as people called by God and to follow their call in Christ.

So, let us flash forward today. How can we use this advice to guide our congregation.? First, we should be with Thanksgiving. I encourage all of us to begin our days taking a look at our beautiful mountains, forests, friends and pets and simply give thanks. Second, we are called to care for one another. Let us adopt a practice of showing concern for one another. Invite a new visitor to lunch, send a card, be present at worship, offer a needed compliment, and pray for one another. Third. We are called to give of ourselves. This means continuing to go out and volunteer for our community, give money so that we can support those who rely on us, and offering a helping hand to someone in need. And finally, protect our faith. This means standing up for our beliefs and our values. Tell people that we are resurrection people and that we live into a world defined by God's hope.

Friends, while this is yet a reminder of our call in Christ, please know that I am personally so honored to be your pastor, so impressed with your perseverance, and so excited how we can continue to be a beacon of hope in this community.

Grace and Peace,

Christine

PCCR in January

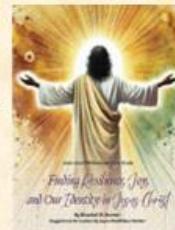




Presbyterian Women's Bible Study—February 16 Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

"I will say it again, Rejoice." This is the title of the uplifting PW Bible Study lesson for February. Join other women of the church as they discuss how Christian joy is much more than feeling happy. The lesson is based on Paul's joyful letter to the Philippians. Written while in prison, Paul offers encouragement to his friends.

On Monday, February 16th Carol Rood will lead lesson 6 in the church library. We meet at 11:30 for coffee and fellowship followed by the lesson starting at 12 noon. If you would like a study book, they are available in the church office for \$10. We hope you can join us.



Crossroads Donations Update



DID YOU KNOW?

THE 2026 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IS FEBRUARY 8!

In 2025, your generosity towards your neighbors knew no bounds! Your donations to the Crossroads Market jumped 64% over 2024. Thank you!

We can kick this year's donations to the Crossroads Market over the goalpost by joining the national **Tackle Hunger Campaign on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th.**

For the past 36 years, nonprofits, churches and youth groups around the country have collected hearty soups for families who may not be able to have a meal while watching the Super Bowl game. This year, PCCR members can be the winners, no matter which football team prevails, by not sitting on the sidelines and participating in the **Souper Bowl of Caring.**



By filling our Crossroads Market grocery cart to the brim with hearty soups, we can be game-changers for families in the Estes Valley who truly need to know that God is with them in 2026.

The cart is always available for donations. Our regular monthly donation day will be on the third Sunday, February 15th.

Gratefully, Your Mission and Outreach Committee

Meet your new Church Officers Class of 2028

Elders



Dale Bonza

Diane Palmer

Brian Rood

Mike Warren



Deacons



Beth Carle

Leslie Causer

Mark Koepke

Ann Taylor

Special Thanks for your Commitment to PCCR

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Immediately following the worship service

Community Prayer Quilters Hit a Landmark

The Community Prayer Quilters of Estes Park have filled over 1,600 requests for prayer quilts since the ministry began in 2006, twenty years ago.

Prayer quilts are pieced lap quilts that are backed with fleece, tied with yarn, and covered in prayer. The yarn is knotted with prayers for the recipient by the quilters before the quilt is delivered. The quilts are gifts of prayer, and are not for sale.

Requests for quilts are typically for someone who is ill, recovering from illness or surgery, or who needs emotional or spiritual support. All quilts are sent with the permission of the one who is to receive it.

Community Prayer Quilters is an ecumenical gathering of women who enjoy sewing and/or quilting, and who appreciate the opportunity to provide people with the comfort of prayer. They meet on Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 to work in the lower level of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, across from the fire station.

Volunteers are needed. Contact jogengler@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with this ministry.



The "Waving of Hands"

Many in the congregation have commented on the sign language interpretation of hymns that are done occasionally. None have any idea what is actually being "said" as I "wave my hands around." So I want to offer a few of the basic signs so you can perhaps recognize them next time! And join in if you feel so moved!

I sign in American Sign Language (ASL), with a bit of Malawi Sign Language (MSL) as well. Yes, every language has its own sign language. What may be perfectly logical in one language may make no sense in another or, worse, may be offensive. So here is your first lesson — all in ASL.

These are signs frequently used in worship:

God: raise the right hand, palm out, up as high as you can reach. "GOD" is the highest sign ever made. If you are left handed, use the left hand if it is more comfortable. (If using "You" as God's pronoun, raise the hand with the index finger pointing up.)

Jesus: the middle finger of the right hand touches the palm of the left, then the middle finger of the left hand touches the palm of the right hand. This is showing the nail holes when He was crucified.

Holy: hold the left hand palm up. The right hand index and middle fingers (held together as the letter "H") "hover" over the left hand and spiral upward.

Holy Spirit: same as "Holy" but uses an "S": right hand makes a fist. Sign "Holy" first then sign "Spirit."

You are on your way!
Carol Nussbaumer

Let Me Listen

Music Honoring the African Tradition



Estes Valley Chamber Singers. Estes Park Chorale. Valerie Dascoli.
John Wolf. Tranquil Valley Gospel Singers. Simpatica. Patricia Arias.
Robert Johnson. Gary Hall. Michelle Gergen-Wisner. Nada Quartet.

A Concert Benefitting the Estes Dementia Day Center
Free Admission - Donations Greatly Appreciated



Sunday, February 22. 2 PM

Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies 1700 Brodie Avenue Estes Park

Groups and Events

Pancake Supper

Mark your calendar for the annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th.

The Grace and Grub group plans and serves the meal which is a fundraiser for Crossroads. The meal is free but there will be donation jars to collect your donations. Delicious pancakes, ham, and blueberries will be served. Enjoy the festive atmosphere with Mardi Gras decorations and New Orleans style music.

The meal will be served from 4:30 until 6:00. Plan to come and invite your family, neighbors and friends.

Please join us for this fun event!



Palm Sunday Brunch

Mark Your Calendars!



You are invited to attend the annual Palm Sunday Brunch on Sunday, March 29, 2026 immediately following the worship service.

The Hospitality Committee will provide ham, potato casserole, rolls, and coffee/water.

The congregation is asked to bring a dish that will feed at least 8 people.

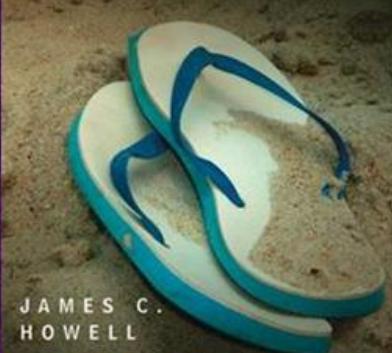
Last names beginning with A-R: side dishes, salads (no potatoes please)

Last names beginning with S-Z: desserts

We look forward to this special time of fellowship before Easter!



THE BEATITUDES FOR TODAY



JAMES C.
HOWELL

If you would like to participate, please let Brenda in the office know. She will need to know which time you are wanting to attend and whether or not you want a book.

Books are \$12 each although you are welcome to participate without purchasing the book and just bring your Bible!

Lenten Bible Study

Come and join us for a Lenten Bible Study over the Beatitudes. We will be using the text *The Beatitudes for Today* by James C. Howell to guide our study.

Here are the times:

Sunday mornings at 9:00Am beginning February 22
in the Lounge with Mike Dempsey

Sunday evenings on Zoom at 7:00Pm beginning
February 22 with Pastor Christine

Wednesdays at noon beginning February 18 in the
church library with Pastor Christine
(at the time of our regular Bible study)



Adult Study Group

The Adult Study Group (a.k.a. Not Your Mother's Sunday School) continues on Fridays at 10:00Am in the Church library. Currently we are in the final weeks of the course: 1 Corinthians 13 and are making plans for the next topic the group would like to pursue.

All are welcome to join!

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!



Do you love to sing? Now is the perfect time to join the Chancel Choir as they prepare for the Easter season. No professional experience needed!

Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6:30pm in the choir room.

Questions? Call Rich Dixon at 970-342-9871 or speak to any choir member.



Financial Information December 2025

	Dec	Jan-Dec	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$31,266	\$616,512	\$415,175
Total Expenses	\$53,012	\$653,467	\$507,176
Net Total	-\$21,746	-\$36,955	-\$92,001

*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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