



Volume 14, Number 4



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

April 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 April Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, April 21. Please send your pictures and stories to: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

April 2—5:00pm Maundy Thursday Service, Chancel Choir

April 3—12:00pm Good Friday Service

April 5—10:00am Easter Sunday: Chancel Choir, PCCR Bells and the Highland Brass

April 12 —10:00am Chancel Choir; guest minister Dr. Rebecca Chopp

April 19 —10:00am Bell Choir, PCCR Bells; guest minister Rev. Chris Davis

April 26 —10:00am PCCR Bells

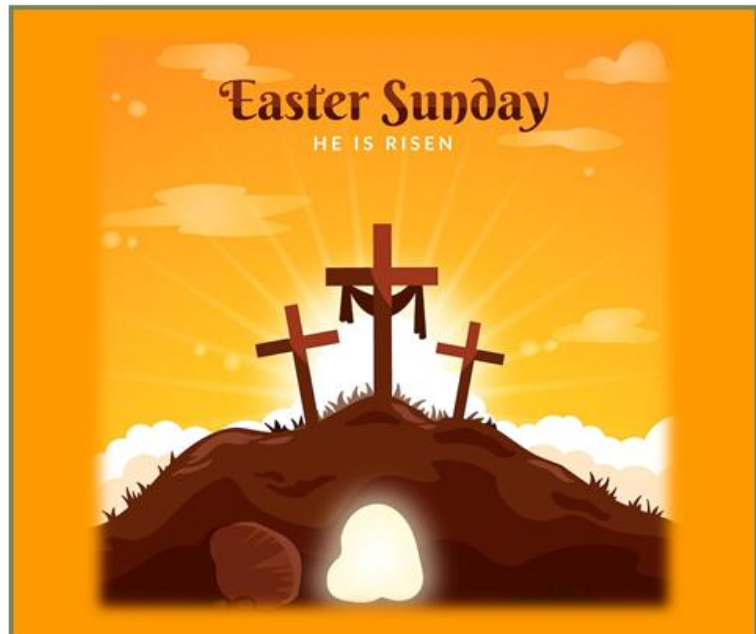
**The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor
Larry Gillum, organist**

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".



April 2026

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...



Have you ever wondered why we have an empty cross at the front of our sanctuary? The cross is a symbol of our Christian faith, and it is also a sign of suffering and death of our Savior. It's a paradox to think of the cross as a symbol of joy within the context of an instrument of death. And yet, we sing during Holy Week, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory." Or "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," or "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Why is it that we find hope there?

When I served as a chaplain in a Roman Catholic Hospital, I spent many hours holding the hand of the dying looking at the cross with Jesus hanging on it. It was a different experience than the empty cross. I was reminded of the pain and suffering of Christ: his lifeless body, the sorrow of loss, the stench of decay, and the seething anger against the jeering crowd. The vision of Christ on the cross had a rawness to it, a pain of regret and yet an awe of his sacrifice. I did find some comfort there, in solidarity with my Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. It reminded me that Christ suffered, and that his suffering could be strength for me in my trials.

Yet, we as Resurrection people don't hang onto this inhabited cross in our sanctuary. Why? Instead of lingering on death, we celebrate the risen Christ. We come into a sanctuary not focusing on our sins but on Christ's forgiveness. We are reminded that Christ conquered sin and death. He freed us to live as resurrection people who are free from the burden of sin, and people called to share the hope of Christ.

What is important for us to know as we enter into Holy Week is that we will experience the pain of death, its deep sadness and isolation. This is what we remember on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday. Easter Sunday, we will experience the Risen Christ. I encourage you to be involved in the entirety of the Holy Week experience as part of your faith walk. It is hard to understand the full significance of Jesus who "has been raised from the dead," when we have not experienced the pain and alienation that Christ did. (Matthew 26:7) As human beings, we have all felt pain and sadness but we forget sometimes that Jesus also experienced them. It is Jesus, who is the Christ, who reminds us that death is not the final say.

Easter reminds us of life victorious, where goodness defeats evil and hope wins over despair. As Paul writes to the church in Colossae, Jesus "has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son." That is powerful! And we get to experience this transformation again this year. Come and worship this Holy Week and renew your faith and your life in the Risen Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Christine

PCCR in March





Crossroads Donations Update

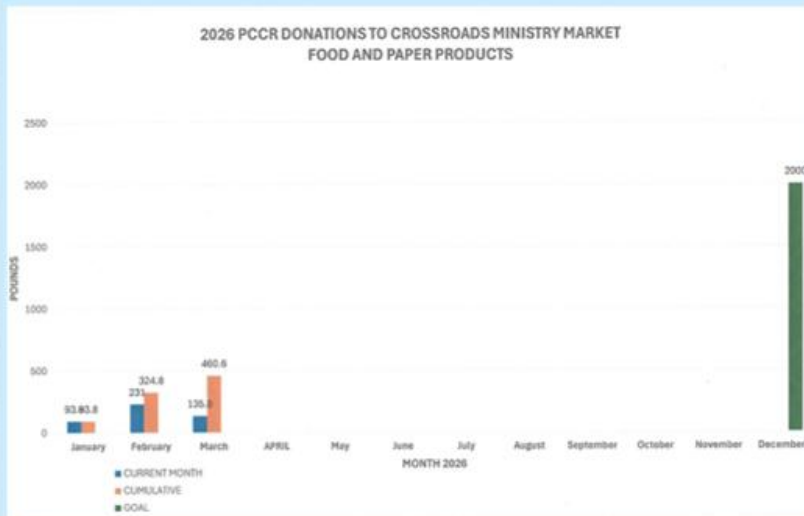


DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, the Market at Crossroads distributed 220,393 pounds of food to our neighbors in need in the Estes Valley. That equaled more than 73,000 bags of groceries to families!

This year, feeding the community is still one of Crossroads' major priorities. Not one of our neighbors should ever go hungry.

Crossroad's is also focusing on long term assistance for residents in financial and wellness counseling services and rent and utilities support. Crossroads' realizes that "THERE'S NO QUICK FIX IN 2026!"



Finally, good news; the Grand Opening of the Good Neighbor Thrift will be in early May; come join the celebration by welcoming the town's renamed thrift shop. Look for details soon.

Your Mission and Outreach Committee

A Message from Mission and Outreach

The Mission and Outreach Committee is proud to report that in 2025, our congregation sent financial gifts to the organizations shown below. Total Mission giving to these organizations was just shy of **\$28,000**, and included budgeted mission funds, congregational support, and anonymous donations. In addition, our congregation celebrated four special offerings throughout the year and sent nearly **\$8,000** to the PCUSA, supporting at risk children, retired clergy emergency needs, and leadership development across the globe. The Mission and Outreach Committee says **THANK YOU** members and friends for your generous gifts from the heart. When we all do a little, it adds up to A LOT!

Christmas in July Blankets
EV Crisis Advocates The Learning Place
Crossroads Assistance Ministry
Habitat for Humanity
EV Restorative Justice Salud Foundation EVICS
Highlands Camp Embangweni School
Marion Medical Mission LA California Wildfires
PCUSA Global Ecumenical Partnership Texas Floods
Hurricane Melissa
Philippines Earthquake

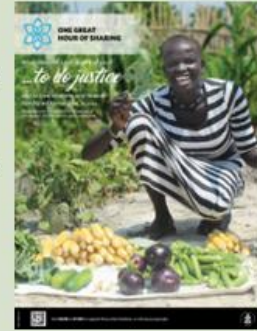


ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing

What does the Lord require of you...to Do Justice, Love Kindness
and Walk Humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

The Mission Committee would like to thank our congregation for their generous support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected during Lent and dedicated on Palm Sunday. If you were unable to donate earlier you can still write a check to PCCR with OGHS written in the memo line. You can also donate through the PCCR website by clicking on the line that says "Special Offering or Activity." OGHS will show up as an option. Thank you for your support of the vital ministries supported by One Great Hour of Sharing. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



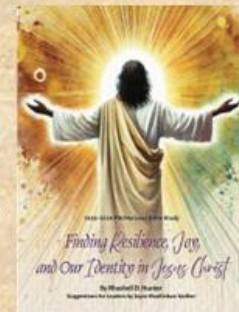
PW Bible Study—April 20, 2026

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Do you remember your baptism? Were you an infant, child or an adult when you were identified as God's own child? Lesson eight in the Presbyterian Women's Bible study for April explores Jesus' baptism, which is found in all four gospels as well as in Acts, and reminds us what it means to be children of God. Please consider joining together with other women of the church to discuss this interesting and meaningful lesson, led by Beth Carle, on April 20, in the church library. We meet at 11:30 for coffee and fellowship followed by the lesson starting at 12 noon. We would love to have you join us!

With Gratitude from Presbyterian Women

We would like to thank all who donated to Presbyterian Women, following the letter sent out in February. We are deeply grateful for your support, both financial and through your prayers. The funds collected will support missions both locally and around the world, with a strong focus on helping women and children in need. If you are still planning to donate, make your check payable to PCCR and write PW in the memo line. Thank you so much for your loving support.





Guest Ministers in April

Dr. Rebecca Chopp

April 12

Rev. Chris Davis

April 19



*A special thank you to Rebecca and Chris
for assisting while Pastor Christine*

and her husband Mike attend the graduation of their son Cael from Alma College in Michigan

**Are you ready
for Phase 2
of the
Meditation
Trail?**



Groups and Events

Holy Week

April 2nd—**Maundy Thursday Service** at 5:00pm
Join the Chancel Choir in a service of communion as we remember the last supper

April 3rd—**Good Friday Service** at 12:00 noon
Experience dramatic monologues read by members of our congregation from the *Voices of Good Friday*, narratives written by Amanda J. Burr

April 5th—**Easter Sunday Service** at 10:00am
Celebrate the joy of Easter with Larry Gillum on the organ, the Chancel Choir, PCCR Bell Choirs and special guest The Highland Brass

Save the Date!

Thursday, July 16 -
Sunday, July 19, 2026
9:00 - 11:30 am



Go Tell It on the Mountain

**Vacation
Bible
School**

Jesus Loves Me!

Open to children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade

Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies
1700 Brodie Ave. Estes Park, CO 80517
Phone: 970-586-4404 Email: office@pccrusa.org

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

Come and join us for Bible Study on Wednesday's at noon in the church library as we begin a new study series on the book of Exodus. All you need is your bible.

See you there!



Adult Study Group

Adult Study Class continues to meet on Fridays at 10:00 am in the library. We have just completed a wonderful Roundtable on the topic "Does God Change His Mind" with two presenters: one a Jewish rabbi and the other a

Methodist pastor. Both British and trained at Cambridge so we also got a dose of an educated accent!

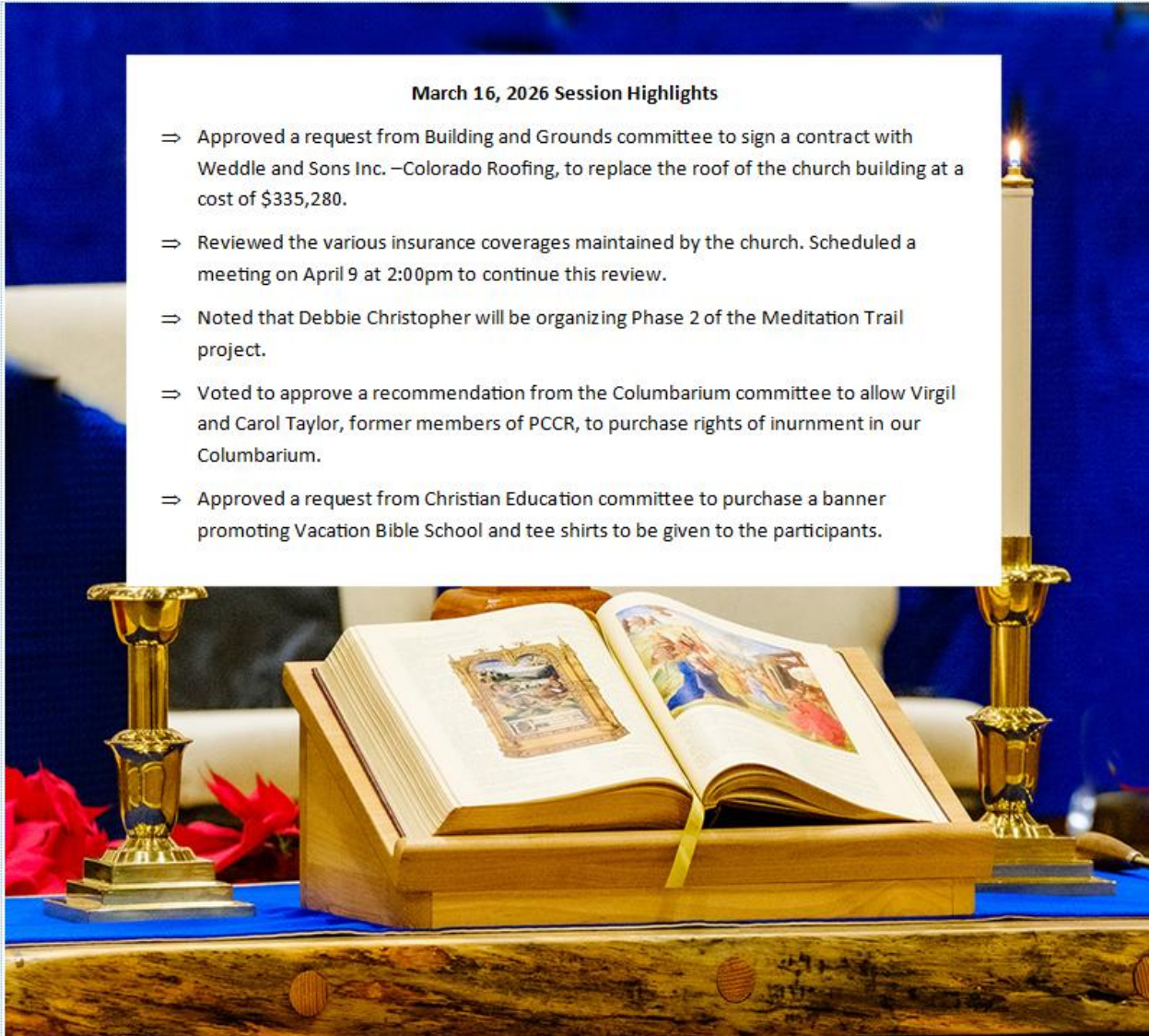
Coming up will be some more Roundtables—they are generally short and very focused on a particular topic. Some of the classes under consideration are "Archeology on Life in the First Century" (Dr. Jodi Magness), "The Lord is My Shepherd" (Discover the power of the 23rd Psalm as it was meant to be heard), and "Why are the Gospels so Different?".

Spring is a good time to start something new—join us and see what seeds of curiosity can be planted!



March 16, 2026 Session Highlights

- ⇒ Approved a request from Building and Grounds committee to sign a contract with Weddle and Sons Inc. –Colorado Roofing, to replace the roof of the church building at a cost of \$335,280.
- ⇒ Reviewed the various insurance coverages maintained by the church. Scheduled a meeting on April 9 at 2:00pm to continue this review.
- ⇒ Noted that Debbie Christopher will be organizing Phase 2 of the Meditation Trail project.
- ⇒ Voted to approve a recommendation from the Columbarium committee to allow Virgil and Carol Taylor, former members of PCCR, to purchase rights of inurnment in our Columbarium.
- ⇒ Approved a request from Christian Education committee to purchase a banner promoting Vacation Bible School and tee shirts to be given to the participants.



Financial Information February 2026

	Feb	Jan-Feb	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$36,564	\$107,286	\$75,802
Total Expenses	\$41,974	\$80,661	\$83,218
Net Total	-\$5,410	\$26,625	-\$7,416

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary						
5						
10:00am-Christlan Ed Comm-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH Lounge						
6						
12:00pm-Oris Day at a Time AA-Lounge 12:00pm-PEO Chapter AY-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Fem6						
7						
10:00am-Mission & Outreach-L 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Belts-FH 5:30pm-Girl Scout Troop 7794-S-Fem6 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH						
8						
12:00pm-ENN Board Meeting-Fem6 1:00pm-Fundation-L 2:00pm-Insurance Meeting-L 4:00pm-Chancel Belts-FH 5:00pm-EVCS #M6,N 6:15pm-Girl Scout Service Unit-L 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR						
9						
10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH						
10						
9:00am-Girl Scout Troop 76904-Rnt 9:00am-Craft Making Group-FH 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 7049-Lounge 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge						
11						
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary						
12						
9:30am-Finance Committee-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH Lounge						
13						
10:00am-Building & Grounds-L 12:00pm-Oris Day at a Time AA-Lounge 1:00pm-Personnel Committee-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 3:00pm-Worship & Music Committee-L 4:30pm-Deacons-L 6:30pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Fem6						
14						
12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH						
15						
3:00pm-Columbarium Committee-L 4:00pm-Chancel Belts-FH 5:00pm-EVCS #M6,N 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR						
16						
10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH						
17						
5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge						
18						
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:00pm-Oratorio Society-FH						
19						
11:30am-Freedyetian Women-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH Lounge						
20						
12:00pm-Oris Day at a Time AA-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Fem6						
21						
12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Belts-FH 5:30pm-Girl Scout Troop 7794-S-Fem6 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH						
22						
4:00pm-Chancel Belts-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR						
23						
9:30am-Merry Martins-Lounge 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH						
24						
10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 7049-Lounge 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge						
25						
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:00pm-Oratorio Society-FH						
26						
9:30am-Hospitality Committee-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH Lounge 4:00pm-Session-L						
27						
12:00pm-Oris Day at a Time AA-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Fem6						
28						
12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Belts-FH 6:30pm-Estes Park Chorale-FH						
29						
4:00pm-Chancel Belts-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR						
30						