



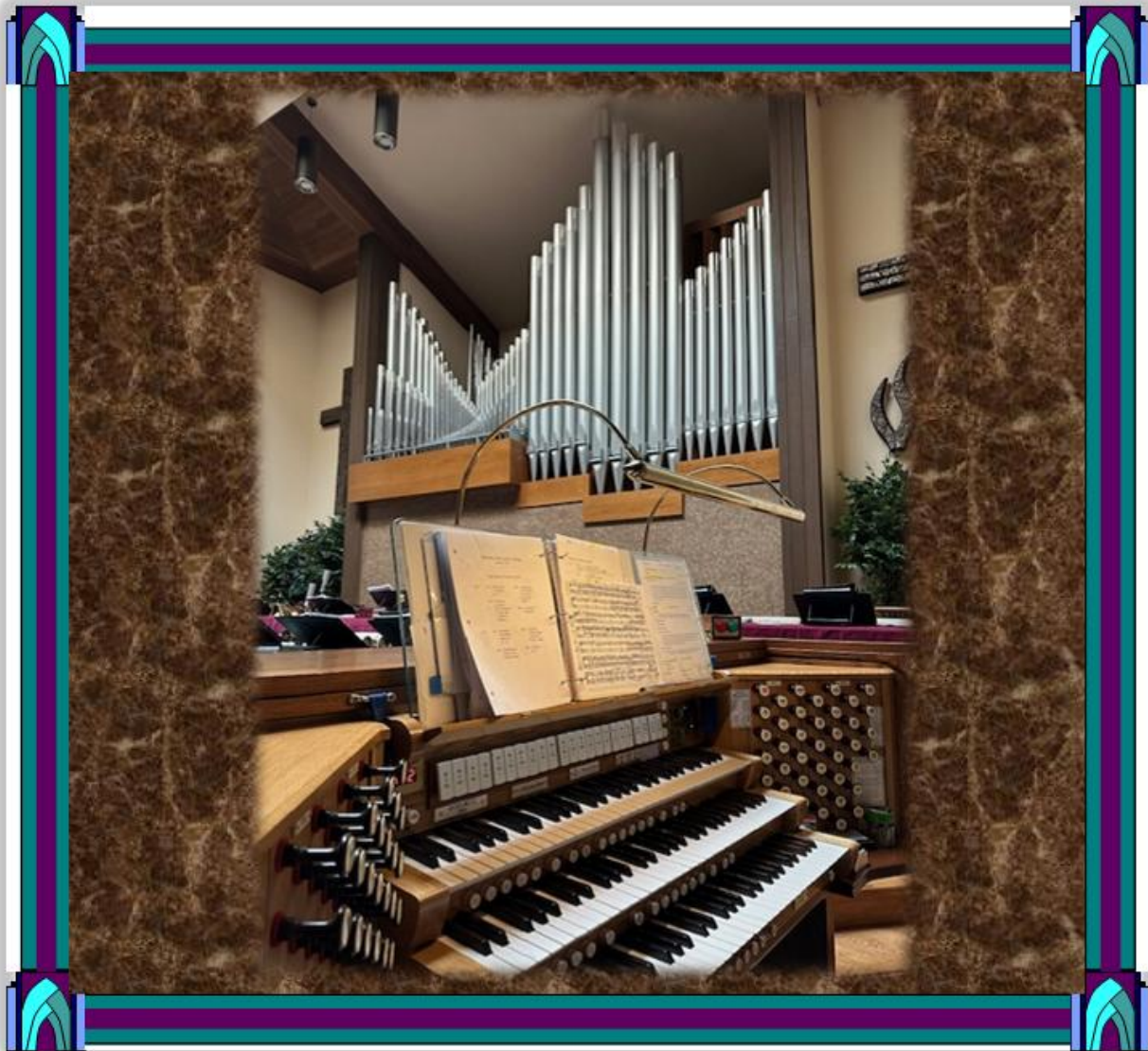
Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

May 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 5





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, May 19. Please send your pictures and stories to:
office@pccrusa.org Thanks!



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

May 3—10:00am service with Chancel Choir

May 10 —10:00am service with Chancel Choir, Kathy Osborne, flute; Verlene Thorp, piano

May 17 —10:00am service with Jeff Lindberg & Stan Osborne, duet; Jill Hunt, organ

May 24 —Pentecost: 10:00am service with Chancel Choir; Jill Hunt, organ

May 31—10:00am service with 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".

PENTECOST
sunday

May 24th

**Wear your
brightest
RED to church
and celebrate!**



May 2026

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Sing to God. Sing Praises to God. (Psalm 105: 2) I love the Psalms and way they embrace music -- this gift from God, this language that surpasses our spoken words. And I love that we embrace music in this space here understanding its ability to draw us together as a congregation and in the ministry of God. As you know, our music has come to the forefront of our church as our organ and the chamber in which it sits need a little TLC. The description of the needs is clarified further into this newsletter, but I want us to think about why the organ matters. This morning, I had a pastor acquaintance lament that music was more important than his preaching, more important than scripture, and more important than relationships. Well, guess what, this experiment of putting music on a shelf and omitting it from worship was indeed part of our Reformed church history and it was not successful.



In the 16th century, Swiss Reformers Huldrych Zwingli advocated for the cessation of singing in the church and the silencing of organs. Dutifully, the people responded by disassembling the organs. Music disappeared and they stoically met to hear the spoken word. Second generation reformer John Calvin felt that singing the Psalms in unison would reflect biblical principles but agreed with Zwingli that organs were distracting. The problem is that human hearts are filled with song – song outside of the church and songs outside of the faith. While this silencing was part of our Reformed tradition, the Lutherans were busily creating musical forms that celebrated God’s words and God’s sounds. As you all well know, my Ph. D. Dissertation covers Lutheran hymnody during the sixteenth century. What Luther knew, and our reformed predecessors would eventually understand, is that music is a way to celebrate God. Luther understood that music was a teaching tool usable to teach people the tenets of the faith. He knew that music could mend our hearts, “beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.”

It is perhaps no surprise that by the eighteenth century, our predecessors in the Reformed tradition added the fullness of music back into our liturgical experience. We understand that our human gift to make music together helps bind us to Christ and to our creator. It is indeed the work of the Holy spirit. And, in our church, the organ has become that vehicle. We begin our service, “preparing our hearts and minds for worship,” and we do this through our meditation on the organ prelude. We join our voices together in congregational song accompanied by the organ thus mingling our voices together reminding us that it is God who teaches us about harmony. It is our organ that helps us bridge the silence reminding us that when there is nothingness, the melody of God that reaches our hearts. As 19th century philosopher Walter Savage notes *“Music is God's gift to man, the only art of Heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to Heaven.”*

Friends, our music through God gives us strength to go out into the world to do the work of discipleships, and it welcomes those who enter our sanctuary to join us in song. Let’s not let our music go silent! Please join me in this celebration of this magnificent instrument! As famed organist Charles Marie Widor, wrote **“Organ playing is the manifestation of a will filled with the vision of eternity.”**

Grace and Peace,

Christine

PCCR in April



The Voices of Good Friday



Maundy Thursday Service of Communion



Easter Sunday April 5th



Christmas in June is coming up!

This annual free-will offering buys blankets and a Christmas dinner for the extreme poor in far northern Malawi. This project, begun and sustained by Mr. Leman Kayira, has been collected at PCCR for a number of years. The blankets are made in Malawi and purchased there, making double use of your gifts. Mr. Kayira gives the blankets to those most in need: the elderly, handicapped, small children, disabled of all ages and distributes about 150 – 200 yearly. At last report, each blanket costs \$7.00; the value to a needy Malawi is incalculable. The months of June, July and August are the coldest part of the year in Malawi with temperatures dipping into the 50's and 40's at night. A blanket to protect against this cold as one sleeps on a bare earth floor in an un-insulated brick home gives welcome warmth. If there is a death in the family, the blanket will be used to wrap the body in for burial – one final gift of honor to the loved one.



If sufficient funds are collected, Mr. Kayira and his wife, helped by women from their Church, provide a dinner on Christmas for these same people. It will be the only meal they have that day and will serve nkhukhu (chicken), mpunga (rice), nchungu (beans), nyama (meat), nsima (a maize patty), and cooked greens. Dessert will be a Coke or Fanta (orange drink). To top it all off, if funds permit, each person will receive a gift of a bar of soap. The whole thing probably will cost about \$2.00/person. If that is less than your most recent Christmas dinner cost, consider adding a bit to your blanket donation.

Crossroads Donations Update



DID YOU KNOW?

The **Market at Crossroads** distributed 19,997 pounds of food in February. This fed 1,380 adults and children throughout that month. Your Mission and Outreach Committee appreciates the **Faith in Action** you demonstrate by continuing to donate to the Market so that no one in our community goes hungry.

Crossroads Assistance Ministry is happy to announce the Grand Opening of **GOOD NEIGHBOR THRIFT** on Tuesday May 5th at 11:00 in the morning, at 1138 Manford Avenue.

Our Cinco de Mayo celebration will be a recognition of the 10 years of good work by the Village Thrift Shop and Crossroads' intentions to continue this work while providing more basic human services to our neighbors in need in the Estes Valley.

Invite your friends to join you to have fun, check out the bargains and ensure a bright future for Crossroads' newest collaborative venture!

Your Mission and Outreach Committee



Renewing the Voice of Our Organ

The Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies has been blessed with a remarkable instrument at the heart of our worship life: our organ. Its rich voice lifts our congregation in praise, deepens our worship, and fills our sanctuary with music that inspires both our church and the wider Estes Park community.

Beyond Sunday mornings, this instrument helps make our church a center of music in the region. It supports choirs, musicians, community ensembles, and our beloved Christmas programs. In fact, it is the only **performance-level organ in the Estes Park community**, making it a gift not only to our congregation but also to the entire community we serve.

Today, however, this treasured instrument faces a challenge that calls for our careful stewardship.

While the organ itself remains in good condition, the computerized operating system that controls it has become obsolete. The company that manufactured the system has gone out of business, and replacement parts are no longer available. Should one or two critical components fail, the organ would become non-functional. In addition, the chamber housing the organ pipes lacks consistent temperature control, which affects the tuning and reliability of the instrument.



To preserve this extraordinary resource, we have been advised to replace the current operating system with a new one designed by the Walker Company, the nation's leading organ systems manufacturer. Improvements will also be made to the pipe chamber to ensure a stable environment for the instrument.

This project is more than maintenance — it is an investment in the future of worship, music, and community at PCCR for generations to come.

- ⇒ Music has long been one of the great strengths of our church. It enriches our worship, draws new people into our congregation, and offers beauty and inspiration to all who enter our sanctuary. The organ stands at the center of this ministry, supporting our choir, our musicians, and our congregation as we sing and pray together.
- ⇒ By renewing the only “performance-level” organ in Estes Park, we ensure that its voice will continue to inspire worship, support our musicians, and serve the Estes Park community.
- ⇒ PCCR's organ is an attraction for area wide musicians. When the time arrives to recruit an organist, the investment we make now will help to secure a talented musician.

We believe that our congregation has the will and the capacity to fund this project. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex. Please consider a gift to help keep our pipe organ fully operational for generations to come. Pledge cards are due into the church office by May 31st, with all gifts due by September 30th. If you have already pledged or donated, **THANK YOU!**



Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

“Abound in Hope.” Romans 15:13

May 17, 2026

The Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering is an annual spring tradition. Since its beginnings, over a century ago, grants from this offering have funded capital investments such as clean water projects, rural medical centers, prison ministries for women, shelters for children and so much more. Participants in this offering have helped carry the message of God’s joy by offering tangible symbols of God’s abundance through this impactful grant program. The tradition began when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged members of the Woman’s Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life, encouraging them to offer “a penny for every year you have lived, and if that is a secret, bring a dollar!” That penny in 1922 would be worth 20 cents today. This year’s offering is based on Romans 15:13, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The two projects chosen for this year’s grants are:

- Women and Children’s Crisis Shelter in Findlay, Ohio. The offering will support renovations at Martha’s Home as well as purchase a vehicle to provide reliable transportation to employment, medical appointments, recovery meetings, childcare and community services for more than 100 individuals each year.
- Rural Food Assistance Project in Waynesville, North Carolina. The Haywood Christian Ministry’s anti-hunger programs ensure that the underserved across their county have the food they need, when they need it and where they are. The grant will equip a commercial kitchen, facilitating the preparation of food products from rescued produce. It will also cover the cost of retrofitting a decommissioned school bus into a mobile market to expand food access and reduce food waste.

May participating in this offering keep us abounding in hope, knowing that we are planting seeds of joy and transforming the lives of others for the glory of God.



PW Bible Study and Salad Luncheon—May 18, 2026 Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Let’s celebrate together another year of fellowship and Bible study for Presbyterian Women by sharing in a **salad potluck luncheon** before the lesson. The luncheon will begin at **11:30 a.m.** on **Monday, May 18**, in the church library.

Following the luncheon Dale Bonza will lead the discussion of lesson nine titled, “When You are Walking with Jesus: The Road to Emmaus.” In this lesson we are reminded that Jesus, at the end of his ministry, sends his followers out to continue proclaiming the good news, but not alone. The Holy Spirit accompanies them, and us, as the church continues its witness in the world God loves. Please bring a salad to share for our meal together. The PW Board will provide the dessert. We look forward to seeing you on May 18, in the church library at 11:30, for our final meeting until September. All are welcome.



We're getting a New Roof

In the middle of May, you will see materials being placed in the west end of the parking lot for the new roof. Weddle and Sons contractors are estimating to be finished in 3-4 weeks. There will be a lot of activity and extra noise around our normally placid facility



OLD

as our "over 20 year old" roof is removed and Brava composite cedar shakes are installed. Please have patience!



NEW

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

Registration is now open!

Registration forms are available in the Church Office, in the Narthex, or on the Church Website at pccrusa.org

Groups and Events

Oratorio Society of
Estes Park
presents

Mozart's Requiem

Friday, May 8 7:00pm

Saturday, May 9 2:00pm



May Concerts in our Sanctuary

Enjoy a variety of
musical selections
performed by local
musicians

Estes Valley Chamber Singers
Spring Concert

"A Musical Mulligatawny"

Saturday, May 16 2:00 pm



Estes Park Chorale Spring Concert

Friday, May 29 7:00pm

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

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



Schedule for May:

May 6—"Getting Real" Exodus 5-6

May 13—"Plagues" Exodus 7-10

May 20—"Passover" Exodus 11-12

No Bible Study on May 27

See you there!

Adult Study Group

Adult Study Group meets each Friday at 10:00 am in the Church library. We welcome new faces! In the past month we have taken a look at "Does God Change His Mind?"

during a Roundtable discussion between a Methodist minister and a Jewish rabbi. In May we will begin another Roundtable titled "The Unseen Realm of the Bible", with presenter Dr. Michael Heiser.

WARNING! If you do not enjoy engaging in back-and-forth discussion with ideas that may not be what you've always thought, this class is not for you! But if digging deep into the Bible and uncovering ideas that may be new to you, this weekly hour will certainly send you out energized!

Note: Adult Study Group will not meet on May 15 or 22.



April 27, 2026 Session Highlights

- ⇒ Heard and discussed an update to the plans to replace the aging and wind-damaged roof this summer. An agreement has been signed for the work. The shingles and related material should be delivered the end of May or beginning of June. Installation should take about 3 weeks, and the project should be completed by the end of June. The material chosen for the roof is a synthetic shake that, unlike asphalt shingles now on the roof, can be successfully fastened to the vertical surfaces of the church's mansard roof. The new roof will have a 50-year warranty.
- ⇒ Received information on the project to update the electronic components of the church organ and the ongoing fundraising effort. The fundraising campaign is going well. The contract has been signed with the vendor. The next step is for the manufacturer to begin building the parts.
- ⇒ Held a comprehensive discussion about several proposed endorsements to the church's insurance policy. Session deferred action on one item but approved 7 additions to the insurance program.
- ⇒ Approved holding the baptism for Ava Lynn Jo Orgando Rohrbaugh on June 28th.
- ⇒ Discussed how the Deacons use church funds to support individuals and recognized the need for a comprehensive policy on this.
- ⇒ Discussed options for how the Columbarium Committee might invest its accumulated funds at a higher rate of return.
- ⇒ Approved motions from Mission and Outreach for a moment for mission in June and taking a collection in July. Both actions relate to the church's support for Malawi.
- ⇒ Approved a motion from the Personnel Committee to post the livestream of Sunday worship services on the first workday following the service rather than immediately after the service.

Financial Information March 2026

	March	Jan-Mar	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$50,436	\$155,796	\$113,704
Total Expenses	\$46,882	\$127,201	\$124,827
Net Total	\$3,554	\$28,595	(\$11,123)

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 12:30pm-EMCS Child Birth Class-Rmg 5:00pm-Oratorio Dress Rehearsal-S-MR	3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH Lounge 6:00pm-Oratorio Rehearsal-S-MR	12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 12:00pm-PCO Chapter MV-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rmg	12:00pm-Bible Study-L 1:30pm-Nada Quartet-MR 2:30pm-Membership Comm-Lounge 6:00pm-Oratorio Rehearsal-S-MR	6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	10:00am-Ballet Renaissance-FH 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 7:00pm-Oratorio Concert-S	9:00am-Card Making Group-FH 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary	9:30am-Finance Committee-L 10:00am-Christian Ed Comm-CofE 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH Lounge	10:00am-Building & Grounds-L 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 1:00pm-Parsonel 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-Rmg	10:00am-Mission & Outreach-L 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 1:30pm-Nada Quartet-MR 6:30pm-Estes Park Choral-FH	8:00am-Handbell Servicing-FH 12:00pm-EVN Board Meeting-Rmg 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 3:00pm-Adult Study Group-L 7:00pm-Oratorio Concert-S	2:00pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers Concert-S 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
CROSSROADS DONATION DAY 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary	8:30am-Hospitality Committee-Lounge 11:30am-Freshly Baked Women-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH Lounge 4:00pm-Session-L	12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rmg	12:00pm-Bible Study-L 1:30pm-Nada Quartet-MR 5:45pm-EP Education Foundation-L 6:30pm-Estes Park Choral-FH	3:00pm-Columbarium Committee-L 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	9:30am-Merry Murkiss-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Lounge 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 1:00pm-Mountain Top Marriages-Rmg	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am-Mountain Top Marriages-Rmg 4:00pm-Grace and Grub	8:00am-Mountain Top Marriages-Rmg 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rmg	8:00am-Mountain Top Marriages-Rmg 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 1:30pm-Nada Quartet-MR 5:30pm-Estes Park Choral-S-MR	8:00am-Mountain Top Marriages-Rmg All Day-Library Work Day-L 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	8:00am-Mountain Top Marriages-Rmg 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 7:00pm-Estes Park Choral Concert-S	5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary						