



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

August 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 8



Pie Social & Hymn Sing

Sunday, August 16



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 August Newsletter deadline is
Tuesday, August 18. Please send your
pictures and stories to:
office@pccrusa.org Thanks!**



Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

**August 2—10:00am service with Chancel Choir;
Communion**

August 9 —10:00am service with Men's Trio

**August 16 —10:00am service with Special Music by
David Neely on violin and Lynn Boyd on piano**

**August 23 —10:00am service with Chancel Choir;
Guest preacher Rev. Rebecca Chopp**

August 30 – 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".

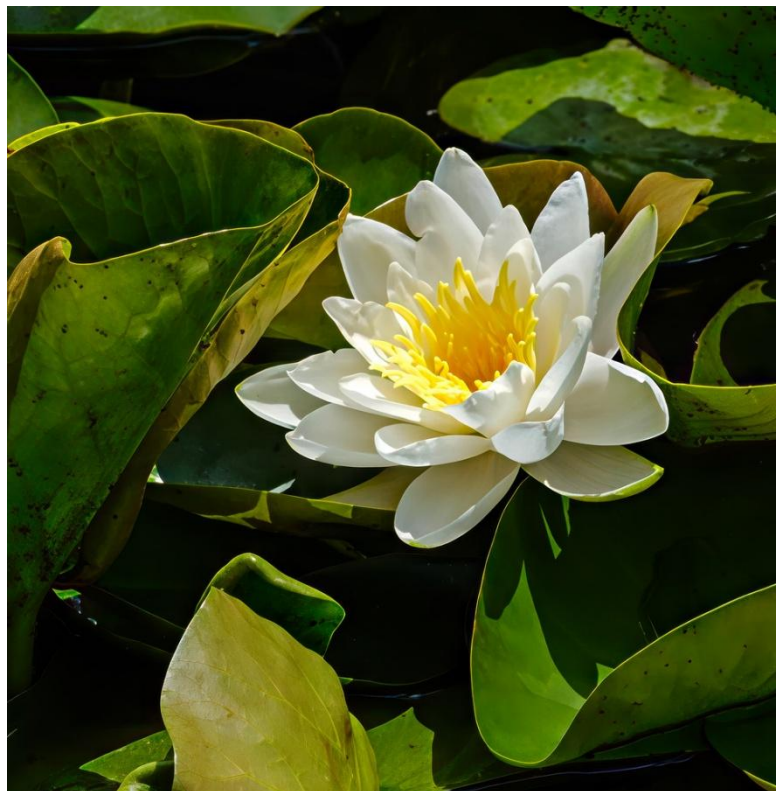


Photo courtesy of Peter Plaut

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August 2026

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

When I grew up, my pastor always prefaced his sermon with “May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord my rock and my redeemer.” I’m sure many of you had this same experience. This prayer from Psalm 19 would set up to hear the message and would prompt us to open our ears to the sermon. As a youngster, I was pretty sure that the message was not for me, so I tuned it out, and later, as someone searching for God, I took notes. I really did. And, now in my role, I am blessed to be able to write the words and share how God has inspired me to write a sermon. While the sermon or homily is a central part of our worship, we don’t always think about the development and history of the genre itself. The historical framework of how preachers have approached, interpreted and presented scripture has impacted the story of the church and how we are today called to be disciples in Christ. Over the month of August and the beginning of September, I am excited to share this insight with you by not only sharing scripture but also showing you the historical lenses of biblical interpretation.



How do we do this? First, I will begin the series by sharing with you Jesus, the preacher. On August 2, we will look broadly about communication in crowds and then look at how scripture presents Jesus, the preacher, to us. What made them compelled to listen to Jesus? How was he a person who spoke with authority? And why was the spoken word so impactful on the masses of his day? The second week, I will look at the figure of Paul and his approach to sharing and interpreting the message of Jesus to us. We credit the gospels with telling us the words of Jesus, so those who come after are interpreters of Jesus’ words. Even when inspired by God, we are still learning about who Jesus is through Paul and through what he says to others. How does Paul preach to the masses? How does Paul shape our understanding of Christ? The third week, I will be looking at the process of sharing the gospel during the early centuries of the church when it was “illegal” to be a Christian.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, August 23, we will welcome our own Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp who is a specialist in the work of Augustine of Hippo. St. Augustine, who is one of the great orators of the post-Nicene church, is known for his ability to share the complexities of theology to ordinary people. I am so excited to hear her insight and learn how this figure from the 4th century has shaped our faith today.

Finally, the last few sermons in this series will look at preaching in connection with the development of the church in human history from the Middle Ages to the present. I pray that this new insight into preaching the Good News, will allow us to ask, “what is Jesus doing today” and give us the insight and awareness that we are a people that must understand Jesus’ words within the context of a world that is not static but changes every day. I look forward to sharing this exciting story with you!

Grace and Peace,
Christine

PCCR in July



Kathy Osbourne, flute



Larry Gillum, organist



All Church Picnic



VBS
2026
"Jesus
Loves
Me"



Help with Meditation Trail

Dear Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies,

On behalf of everyone at the library, thank you for your generosity and support during our construction project.

By opening your meeting spaces to us, you helped ensure that Library programs, services, and community gatherings could continue with minimal disruption. Your willingness to accommodate our needs demonstrated the spirit of partnership and community that makes our work possible.

We are deeply grateful for your flexibility, hospitality, and commitment to serving our community alongside us. Your support has made a meaningful difference, and we could not have navigated this transition as successfully without you.

With sincere appreciation,

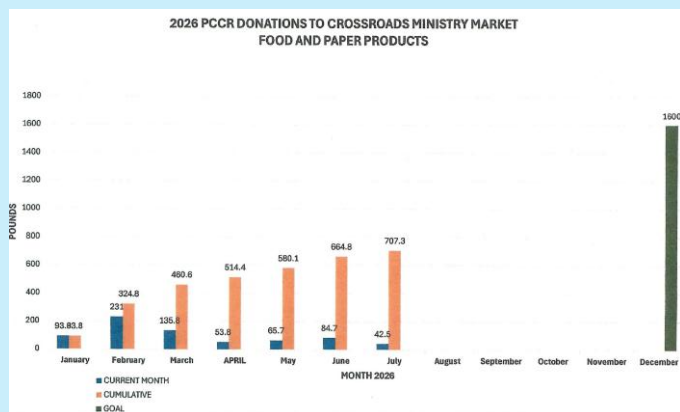
Clavine Lyda Eric



Crossroads Donation Update

DID YOU KNOW?

It's hard to believe that August marks two-thirds of 2026 in the books. **Your Mission and Outreach Committee wants to thank you for your continued support of the Market at Crossroads.** Your donations of nutritious food are helping an increasing number of families in need each week. So far this year, donations total 707 pounds which is on track to match last year's record! As always, white rice and toilet paper are among the most requested items. Canned chili, cereal, sliced bread and microwavable side dishes are always needed as well. And, with school starting, granola bars and other healthy snacks will certainly help our kids thrive.



You can also guess that the lack of affordable housing continues to be another critical problem in the Estes Valley. Spread the word that **Crossroads offers Rental Assistance!** This is just one of 30 programs that Crossroads Assistance Ministry provides to give your neighbors in need a hand up, not a handout. Check out about the ways your donations let Crossroads practice **Faith in Action.**

With grateful thanks,
Your Mission and Outreach Committee

SAVE THE DATE!

Again this year, the PCCR Mission & Outreach Committee is having a miniature golf outing for fun, fellowship, and fundraising. This year's outing will be held at the beautiful Cascade Creek course at Ride-A-Kart, located at the corner of U.S. 34 East and Mall Road.

We'll start promptly at **5:00pm on Monday, September 14**

Entry fees are:

ADULTS: \$30 per person aged 18 and over

CHILD/YOUTH: \$1 per year of age up to 17 years

Contributions from non-players are definitely welcome and encouraged, so even if you can't play that day, you can still help our church support international mission. Entry forms will be inserted in the worship bulletin and also available at the church office.



Get your team together and come out for a fun evening of fellowship!

Christmas in July...

The Christmas in July Blanket Drive was a roaring success! Thanks to the generous donations from the congregation and from visitors, we raised \$2,604, which meets and even exceeds the goal of 450 new blankets for villagers in Malawi, Africa. (450 blankets will cost about \$2,360) The funds have been sent to Leman Kayira in Chitipa, Malawi, who will purchase and distribute the blankets. We should have pictures this fall. Your gifts mean that villagers who are elderly or disabled will soon have a blanket to sleep under on the floor of their home. Or there may be a new baby to wrap in that blanket. Or, sadly, someone may die and the blanket will be used as a burial shroud. No matter what the use, these extremely poor living in a place so remote that few outsiders ever come will hear that Christians in America gave money so they could have a blanket. No "strings", no government taking its portion. Just people they will never meet providing a warm blanket in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sleep well tonight, knowing your gift is making a huge difference in Malawi.



Organ Update...

On behalf of the Worship and Music Committee and the Music Department here at PCCR, we want to thank all those who generously contributed to the Organ Restoration Fund. It was a great success, and we know that the new control system and updates will be a lasting and wonderful addition to our organ.

There are always good sides and not so good sides to every such endeavor, much like remodeling your home while you're still living in it. The organ was originally built in 1982 by the Shantz Organ Company and renovated in 2009 with a completely new computer control system.

There are currently 1,278 pipes and 73 stops in this organ and each of them has a wire going from them to the organ console computer. This is extremely time-consuming and delicate work, and we expect that the organ will have to be out of commission for at least four weeks. The timing is not ideal, but the organ should be up and ready by early September in time to experience the wonderful music of the fall and winter holiday seasons.



A special thank you to all who helped make Vacation Bible School a wonderful experience for the 17 youth who attended.

Whether you were there in person or contributed behind the scenes, you showed by your actions the true meaning of the VBS theme "Jesus Loves Me."

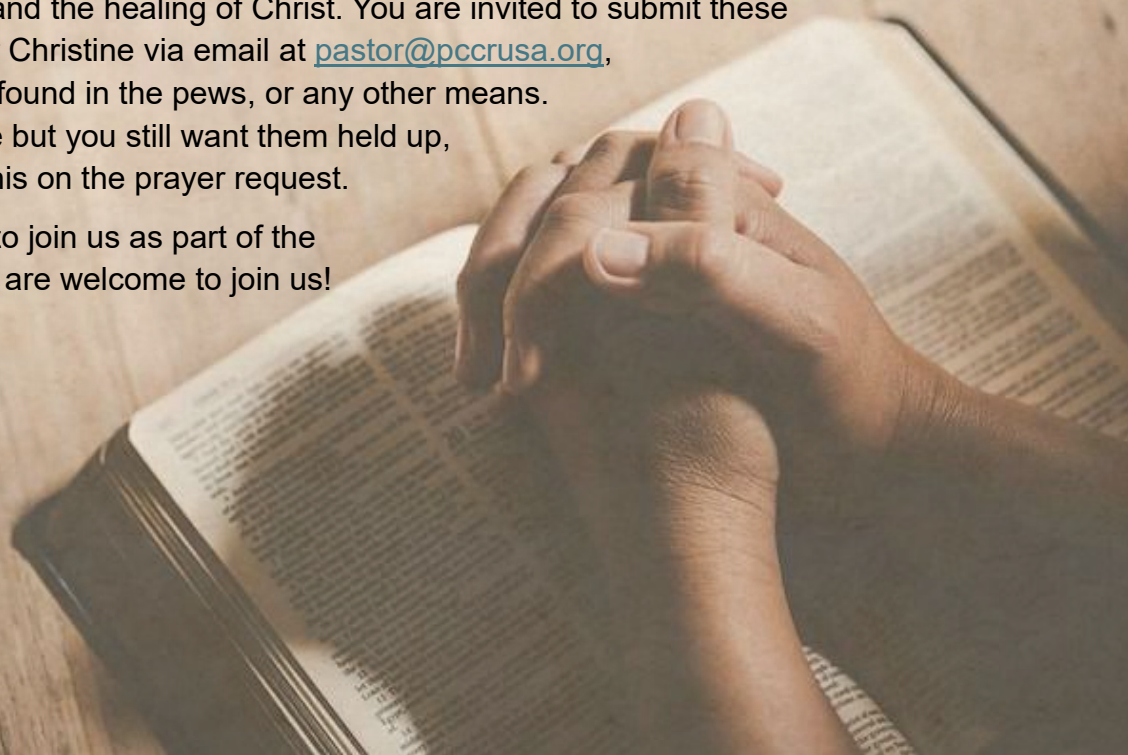
Thank you!



Prayer Team

Do you know that we have a prayer team that meets every Monday at 11:00am? During this sacred gathering, we lift up your prayers for you personally, for family and friends, for God's presence and the healing of Christ. You are invited to submit these prayers to Pastor Christine via email at pastor@pccrusa.org, the prayer cards found in the pews, or any other means. If they are private but you still want them held up, please indicate this on the prayer request.

And, if you want to join us as part of the prayer team, you are welcome to join us!



Are you interested in learning more about PCCR's Columbarium?

Contact the church office and Brenda will get you connected with the right person.

Also, if you currently have unoccupied in-ground spaces and would like to change to the Wall, you may now do so at no additional charge.

Groups and Events



“Bake or Buy, Bring a Pie” Pie Social & Hymn Sing Sunday, August 16, 2026

11:00am in Fellowship Hall immediately
following worship

*The Hospitality Committee invites you to join in the fun,
music, fellowship, and of course, enjoy the delicious pies.*

*Bake or buy a pie to share and bring it to the church
kitchen before worship.*

***Are you looking for a unique way to serve
your church?***

**Pastor Christine has a few special projects,
and she is looking for volunteers! Contact her
for more information at 970-586-4404**

Habitat for Humanity is building in Estes Park

If you would like details on how to help,
contact Dennis McDonald at
303-263-0213 or
themcdonalds4@yahoo.com



Summer Outdoor Worship Services Outdoor Chapel starting at 5:00pm August 26

A wonderful way to worship in nature,
enjoying a campfire-like atmosphere

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

Come and join us for Bible Study on Wednesdays 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 August:

August 5 – “Sacred Things” Exodus 25-28

August 12 – “Making Holy” Exodus 29-31:11

August 19 – NO CLASS

August 26 – “Sabbath” Exodus 31:12-18

See you there!

Adult Study Group

Adult study group continues to meet each Friday at 10:00am in the church library, where we stretch our minds, widen our horizons and advance in our Faith. We are not a basic Sunday School (which is one reason why we meet on Fridays) but a small group sharing a hunger for learning something we didn't know before. Most classes have a video presentation followed by discussion. And most videos are from the Israel Bible Center. Don't let the name scare you! We are not learning to be Jews. Although we are learning a lot about Judaism as we dive more deeply into our Christian faith. We've studied parts of the Old Testament and the New Testament as well as some classes on the archeology and the “land of the Bible”. Sometimes there is one Presenter, sometimes there are 3 or 4 speaking from their particular expertise.

The current study is “The Jewish Gospel of Matthew” which will run 3 or 4 weeks. You are invited to come and give us a try!

Questions?

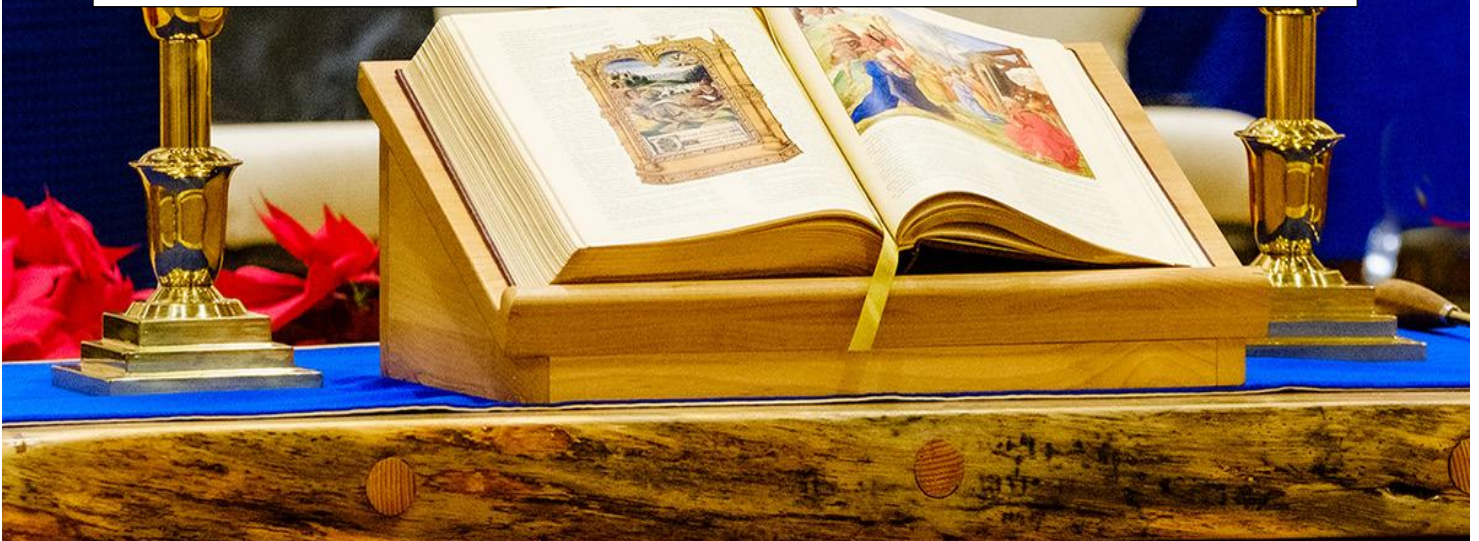
Talk to Carol Nussbaumer or contact her at carol@nussbaumers.net
or 970-586-2437.

NOTICE: ASG will NOT MEET on August 21st



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY 20, 2026

- Approved a baptism service for Parker Cooper Schneider and Hudson Lee Cooper, great grandchildren of Shirley Albers.
- Noted that Deacons have the new prayer group in place and will have training for using the AED soon.
- Learned that we may be without the use of the organ for most of August while repairs are being conducted.
- Determined not to include flood insurance in our coverage, and added the Columbarium to units covered, at a cost of \$85 per year.
- Accepted with reluctance the resignation of Elder Jim Jonell from the Session.
- Approved the policy revisions from the Hospitality Committee.
- Approved using the \$1,800 received from local music groups toward the purchase of replacement pianos.



Financial Information June 2026

	June	Jan-June	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	\$25,169.00	\$260,091.00	\$227,407.00
Total Expenses	\$34,637.00	\$227,323.00	\$227,323.00
Net Total	-\$9,468.00	\$32,768.00	\$84.00

*Revenue includes \$85,000 towards Organ Maintenance Fund

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH 10:00am-EP Mountain Fairways HOA-Rm6 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 11:00am-New Member Info Discussion-Lounge 4:00pm-Special Session Meeting-L	2	3	4	5	6	7
	10:00am-Christian Ed Comm-L 11:00am-Prayer Team-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-L 5:30pm-Estes Valley Library-L	12:00pm-Maria White Memorial Luncheon-FH 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 3:30pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	12:00pm-Bible Study-L 2:30pm-Membership Comm-Lounge	6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:30pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 6:00pm-Deacon/Session Party at Palmers	9	10	11	12	13	14
	9:30am-Finance Committee-L 10:00am-Garden Club-Rm6 11:00am-Prayer Team-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	10:00am-Building & Grounds-L 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 2:00pm-Summer Residents Assoc-Rm6 3:00pm-Worship & Music Committee-L 3:30pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:30pm-Deacons-L 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	10:00am-Mission & Outreach-L 12:00pm-Bible Study-L	10:15am-Estes Valley Library Book-L 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	10:00am-Adult Study Group-L	9:00am-Set-up for Pie Social-FH 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:00pm-Wagner-Kort Wedding-Outdoor Chapel
						15
CROSSROADS DONATION DAY	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 11:00am-Pie Social & Hymn Sing-FH	10:15am-Estes Valley Library-L 11:00am-Prayer Team-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH,Lounge 4:00pm-Session-L	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 1:00pm-Personnel Committee-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge	3:00pm-Columbarium Committee-L 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary	23	24	25	26	27	28
	11:00am-Prayer Team-L 4:30pm-Grace and Grub-FH	12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	12:00pm-Bible Study-L 5:00pm-Outdoor Summer Service-OC	6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	9:30am-Merry Martias-Lounge 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH	5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 12:30pm-EVCS Childbirth Class-Rm6	30	31				29
	9:30am-Hospitality Committee-Lounge 11:00am-Prayer Team-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH,Lounge					