Volume 14, Number 11

Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies

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

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary:

November 1—10:00am service with Chancel Choir; Communion, Members & Memories, All Saints' Day
November 8 —10:00am service with Chancel Choir
November 15 —10:00am service with the Bell Choir; guest speaker Jim McGill
November 22 —10:00am service with Chancel Choir & Bell Choir; Christ the King Sunday
November 29 – 10:00am service with Chancel Choir; 1st Sunday in Advent

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".

November 2026

Message from Pastor Christine Dempsey ...

Dear friends,

For most of my life, I have taken a long road across Nebraska to be with loved ones at Thanksgiving. Nebraska in November is bleak and cold. The trees are bare and the landscape is brown. Desolation. I liken this experience to the many people who experience homelessness, grief, financial ruin, injustice and fear. Their lives are like driving through Nebraska in November, they are going somewhere, looking for help, but there is no place to stop.

We have so many lost people in our world and even in our community that need help be it financial or emotional support, and yet in this age of heightened political rhetoric and fear of the outsider, communities have closed their doors. Our non-profits are bursting at the seams. The Center for Effective Philanthropy reports that there is a 72% increase for their services, and 66% of non-profits are worried about their financial stability.* This means that there are more people in need than our infrastructure can support. It is like traveling through Nebraska and coming across an abandoned farmhouse.

As I travel across Nebraska, I always come across a few houses with the warm light streaming out of its windows. After driving for miles and miles, these homes appear as beacons of hope, as places of welcome in the midst of the wilderness. I imagine, as we drive, the laughter inside, the smell of dinner on the stove and the checkerboard afghan on the recliner. Somehow, I know I can stop there.

The Nebraska metaphor reminds us that even in the void, there are places to stop! And the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies helps make those stops a reality for those in need. This month, we will celebrate the mission that we do to provide our community and our world with these lighted houses of hope.

November 1 – This is All Saint's Day as well as Members and Memories Day, and this year we will highlight the historical mission of this congregation. We will be celebrating our mission partner, Crossroads, and encourage you all to bring items for the food pantry.

November 8 – This is Heifer International Day, and we will offer a means for the congregation to "buy a cow" for Christmas. Founded in 1944, Heifer International has been fighting hunger by providing seeds, tools and animals for farmers around the world.

November 15 – We will be celebrating our newly sponsored mission co-worker, Jim McGill. Jim has been working in Eastern Africa since 1995 where he has helped communities build sustainable water systems and improved hygiene practices. Jim will tell us his story during the sermon that day.

November 22 – This is Christ the King Sunday, the final day of the church year, and it is also Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. On this day, we will celebrate the work of our sisters in Christ who support maternal and child health throughout the United States and Kenya.

Friends, these missions are the houses on the prairie, the oases in the desert and the outposts in the mountains. We, in partnering with them, help those in need! We are loving with "action and truth."** And our church has been a dependable source of support to sustain the work of these groups and others. Let's celebrate this work, and let's be the "spark that keeps the fire burning."

Grace and peace,
Christine

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*Center for Effective Philanthropy, State of Nonprofits 2026: What Funders Need to Know (2026), https://cep.org/report-backpacks/state-of-nonprofits-2026/.
**1 John 3:17-18

PCCR in October
"Larry & Friends" Concert

Saturday, October 17

Larry Gillum
PCCR organist

Jerry Akers
Organ Technician

Joe McConathy
First Presbyterian in Fort Collins

Jill Hunt
PCCR Substitute Organist

Don Shelley
retired, formerly at Allenspark Community Church

Dennis Fromholzer
Our Lady of the Mountains, Estes Park

Joel Bacon
Professor,
Colorado State University

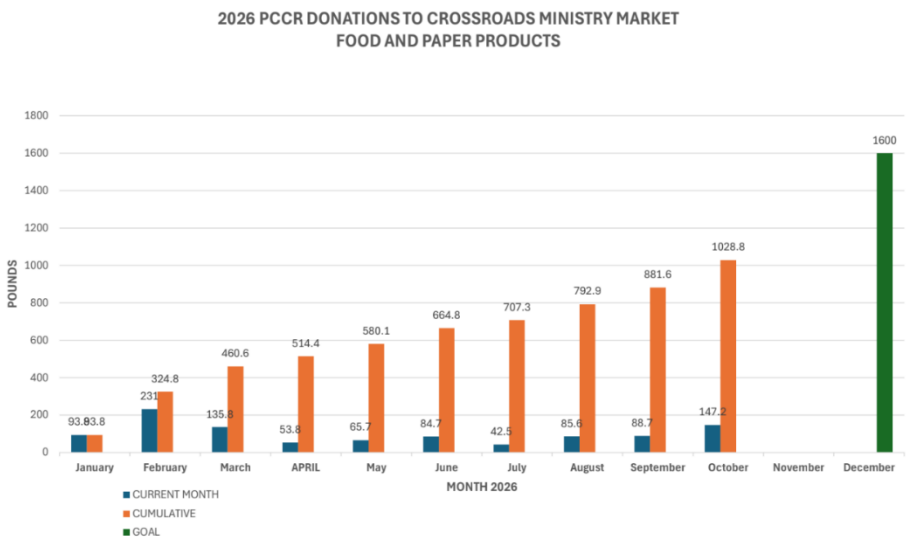
Crossroads Donation Update

DID YOU KNOW?

Crossroads Assistance Ministry, along with sourcing groceries from the Larimer County Food Bank, receives produce donated from Safeway and buys eggs at cost from the Country Market. However, without your donations, the Market's shelves would be missing necessary foods.

Your Mission and Outreach Committee is grateful for your support of the PCCR Fall Food Drive. Your contributions have already helped Crossroads give hope to more families in the Estes Valley. In fact, Crossroads is seeing a record number of new clients compared to last year. The Market distributes at least 20,000 pounds of food and necessities each month. Through October of this year, PCCR donated 1,029 pounds. Terrific response! Plus we still have our Fall Food Drive and December's donation day to add to our total.

Thank you for your Faith in Action! Because of your generosity, many families with children will have nutritious meals during the upcoming holiday season.



With thanks,

Your Mission and Outreach Committee

This past year I have asked not to be put on the prayer list while I received treatment for triple-negative breast cancer. But because Dennis and I chose to attend church and other activities in the community as our health allowed, many of you were aware that something wasn't "right" so you lifted us up in your prayers. THANK YOU. Your thoughts and prayers have meant the world to us. I am now cancer free!

Lory McDonald

Mini-golf outing supports God's mission in Africa

by Dave Thomas

Once again, threats of inclement weather failed to materialize, allowing us to enjoy a beautiful evening for the annual PCCR mini-golf outing on Monday, September 14. Our church's mission budget includes line items for international mission, so the proceeds from the mini-golf event are additional funds allocated through the Mission & Outreach Committee.

The event was held at the beautiful and challenging Cascade Creek course at Ride-A-Kart, thanks to the generosity of course owners Kelly and Andrew Kessler, who again graciously allowed our fundraiser to be held at their business.

The mini-golf benefit provided supplemental support for Rev. Tyler Holm, who serves as a lecturer in systematic theology, church history and Greek on the Faculty of Theology at the University of Livingstonia in Malawi, and for Jim McGill who helps to create sustainable development and lasting water, sanitation and hygiene solutions in East Africa. Each of those mission workers will receive $1,650 as a result of the mini-golf outing. McGill will visit PCCR on Sunday, November 15.

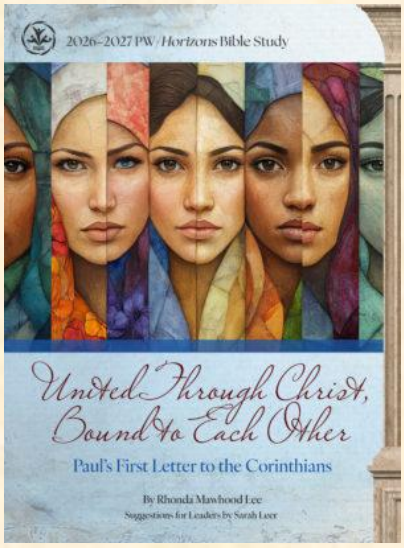
This year's winning team was comprised of Sandy & Jeff Lindberg and Betty & Kent Meyer, with each player receiving a $30 gift certificate from Poppy's Pizza & Grill/Mama Rose's Italian Restaurant (owned by Rob & Julie Pieper). Each player on the second-place team – made up of Barb & Chuck Slicker and Tami & Dan Scace – received a $25 gift certificate from Hexagon (owned by Steve Taylor, PCCR member). And each player on the third-place team – comprised of Kathy & Robert Sherrod and Kathye & Stan Osborne – received a $20 gift certificate from La Mexicana Carnicería & Mini Mart (owned by Ericka Santana and Macario Rojas).

A special award – a 700-piece puzzle donated by Brownfield´s Souvenirs & Outdoor Gear (Jamie Palmesano, co-manager) – was presented to Marianne Solms for "good sportsmanship" and perseverance.

PW Bible Study – Monday, November 16, 2026

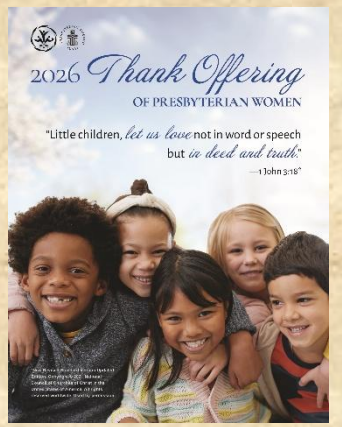
United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

On Monday, November 16, Presbyterian Women will be discussing lesson 3 of their Bible Study, called Freedom in Christ, based on 1 Corinthians 5-6. It is in the study guide titled *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*. Through the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we are set free to make choices that benefit each other. In the lesson we will learn how Paul rebukes the Corinthians for misunderstanding and therefore abusing the freedom they have in Jesus Christ. We will meet in the church library at 11:30 a.m. for a brief social time with the lessons starting at 12 noon. We encourage you to come and join with other women of the church to discuss the ideas presented in the lesson. If you would like a study book, they are available in the church office for $15. All women of the church are welcome.



Merry Marthas Display Items on Thank Offering Sunday November 22, 2026

Members of the Merry Marthas are Estes Park ladies who like to sew, knit, weave or crochet. We meet on the fourth Friday of each month to share projects we have completed and enjoy conversation. We collect our projects all year and in November we display everything at the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. Then we decide which local charity would be a good recipient for each item. Charities this year will include Bright Christmas, Blue Santa and Crisis Advocates in addition to the scarves and hats that have already been donated to the Crossroads Coat Drive. We are also providing Prayer Shawls for Pastor Christine to distribute when the need arises. Merry Marthas in an ecumenical ministry of PCCR, and membership is open to any woman who lives in the Estes Park area. We always welcome new members no matter what the skill level.



Thank Offering Sunday
November 22, 2026

"Little children, ***let us love*** not in word or speech but ***in deed and truth***."
- 1 John 3:18

This year's Thank Offering scripture encourages us to express the gift of God's love by joining with others to provide funds that support projects that care for, nourish, protect and shelter our neighbors in need. For this year's offering 9 projects out of 66 applications were selected with 40 percent of the selected projects related to health ministries. The projects Include a rural home repair project in Michigan, a bus to bring children to a Presbyterian camp for rural areas in Minnesota, and supporting young families in Missouri by providing essential baby items along with opportunities for growth for the parents. In North Carolina we can address food insecurity by developing a food pantry and soup kitchen, while in New Jersey we support the development of a Mommy & Me residential option for women and children escaping domestic violence. A Literacy for Women Project will help build foundational skills for New Americans in Idaho, while in Arizona a Native American group will focus on preventing substance use and suicide among their youth. A backpack program for children in Arkansas experiencing food insecurity will provide access to meals outside school days, and in Kenya the project Growing Gardens, Feeding Minds will provide hot lunches to students.

The Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women started in 1888 when Eliza Clokey called upon women to give a "thank offering to her Lord" by offering one dollar in addition to their usual contribution to mission. That one dollar in 1888 would be equal to $35.47 today. On Sunday, November 22, we will be accepting your gifts for this special offering. Envelopes are provided in the pews, or you may send a check to our church financial manager with the notation of *Thank Offering*. The website also provides a link to support the Thank Offering. Our congregation has a long history of supporting this important ministry. Please join us again this year to express God's love in our lives by bringing hope and help to women and children in need both in the United States and Kenya.

Financial Information September 2026

	September	Jan-Sept	Year to Date—Budget
Total Revenues	$21,284	$714,631*	$454,814
Total Expenses	$66,756	$724,976**	$499,309
Net Total	-$45,472	-$10,345	-$44,495

* includes $365,304 from the Foundation for the roof project

** includes $365,304 in expenses for the roof project

Groups and Events

The Church Office will be closed:

Wednesday, November 11th for Veteran's Day

&

Thursday, November 26th for Thanksgiving

Estes Park Chorale presents

Season of Light

A Concert of Thanksgiving & Hope

Special Guest – The Highland Brass

Saturday, November 21

2:00pm

Tickets $10.00 at the door

Interested in leading an Advent study?

This season the study will be based on the book entitled "On the Way to Bethlehem: An Advent Study" by Rob Fuquay. Scriptures are included to go along with each lesson. Contact Pastor Christine at pastor@pccrusa.org for more details

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine

Come and join us for Bible Study on **Wednesdays at noon in the church library**! We will continue our study on Leviticus. All you need is your bible.

Schedule for November:

November 4 – "Day of Atonement" Leviticus 16

November 11 – No Bible Study

November 18 – "Moral Holiness" Leviticus 17-22

November 25 – "Testivals" Leviticus 23

See you there! New study partners are always welcome.

Adult Study Group

In November, the Adult Study Group will learn how the geography of the Holy Land Impacted people's lives and how they lived in a difficult place. This course, taught by Dr. Cyndi Parker helps us understand things like why people lived where they did, what did the "green pastures" and "still waters" of the 23rd Psalm really look like, just how far did the crowds listening to Jesus at the Sea of Galilee actually have to go to meet Him on the other side and a wealth of other information. A look at the religious calendar of the time will help put some perspective on the very touchy subject of just when was Jesus actually born. (Hint: it is unlikely that it was in December!)

Join us in the church library at 10:00 Friday mornings as, in the best Presbyterian manner, we continue to learn more and more about the Faith. **There will be no class on November 13 or 27.**

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

Journeys

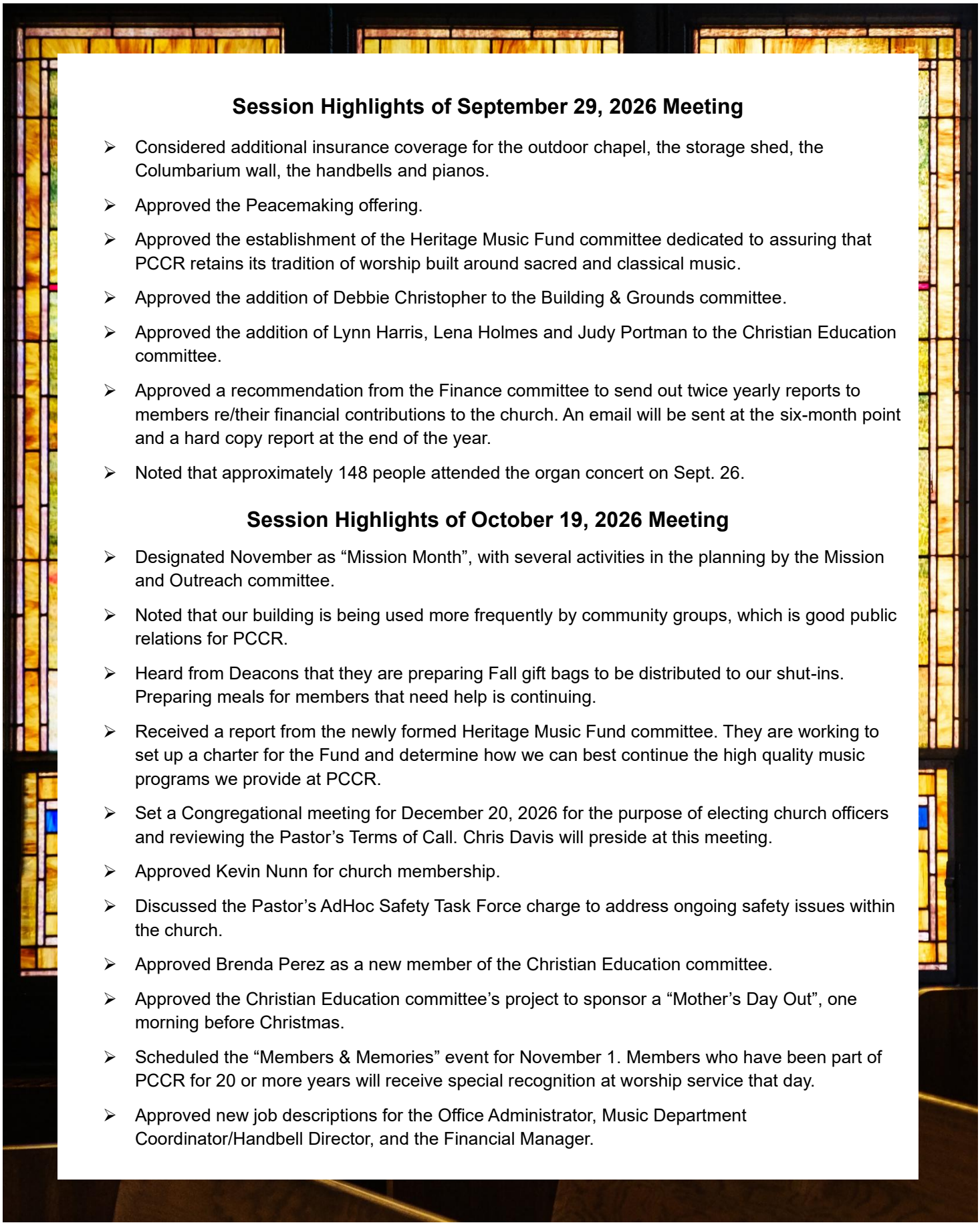
Journeys is a community of ecumenical faith-travelers working toward building a fellowship that supports each person as they seek spiritual wholeness. The discussions cover a broad range of topics. All are welcome.

Journeys meet Sunday mornings in the church library. Gathering begins at 8:15am, with the program starting at 8:30.

For those who are unable to attend in person, there is an opportunity to join the gathering remotely. Since Journeys is primarily a discussion group, the Zoom platform is used for remote access. The Zoom link is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8457412756?pwd=UG5OWk5yV1R2b1lCVmtENnUxTCtlUT09
Meeting ID: 845 741 2756 and Passcode: 80517 (only if necessary)

(Journeys is a community-based study group led by independent facilitators.)



Session Highlights of September 29, 2026 Meeting

- Considered additional insurance coverage for the outdoor chapel, the storage shed, the Columbarium wall, the handbells and pianos.
- Approved the Peacemaking offering.
- Approved the establishment of the Heritage Music Fund committee dedicated to assuring that PCCR retains its tradition of worship built around sacred and classical music.
- Approved the addition of Debbie Christopher to the Building & Grounds committee.
- Approved the addition of Lynn Harris, Lena Holmes and Judy Portman to the Christian Education committee.
- Approved a recommendation from the Finance committee to send out twice yearly reports to members re/their financial contributions to the church. An email will be sent at the six-month point and a hard copy report at the end of the year.
- Noted that approximately 148 people attended the organ concert on Sept. 26.

Session Highlights of October 19, 2026 Meeting

- Designated November as “Mission Month”, with several activities in the planning by the Mission and Outreach committee.
- Noted that our building is being used more frequently by community groups, which is good public relations for PCCR.
- Heard from Deacons that they are preparing Fall gift bags to be distributed to our shut-ins. Preparing meals for members that need help is continuing.
- Received a report from the newly formed Heritage Music Fund committee. They are working to set up a charter for the Fund and determine how we can best continue the high quality music programs we provide at PCCR.
- Set a Congregational meeting for December 20, 2026 for the purpose of electing church officers and reviewing the Pastor’s Terms of Call. Chris Davis will preside at this meeting.
- Approved Kevin Nunn for church membership.
- Discussed the Pastor’s AdHoc Safety Task Force charge to address ongoing safety issues within the church.
- Approved Brenda Perez as a new member of the Christian Education committee.
- Approved the Christian Education committee’s project to sponsor a “Mother’s Day Out”, one morning before Christmas.
- Scheduled the “Members & Memories” event for November 1. Members who have been part of PCCR for 20 or more years will receive special recognition at worship service that day.
- Approved new job descriptions for the Office Administrator, Music Department Coordinator/Handbell Director, and the Financial Manager.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 12:30pm-EVICS Childbirth Class-Rm6 4:30pm-Oratorio Society Rehearsal-FH	**2** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 11:00am-Prayer Team-Conference 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH,Lounge 5:30pm-Estes Valley Library Writing-L	**3** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 12:00pm-PEO Chapter AV-L 1:30PM-Nada Quartet Rehearsal-MR 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:00pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	**4** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 2:30pm-Membership Comm-Lounge 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-EP Chorale Rehearsal-FH	**5** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	**6** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Mixed Nuts Al-Anon-L	**7** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 9:00am-Card-Making Group-FH 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6 10:30am-EVICS Children's Choir Rehearsal-Rm3 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
8 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 12:30pm-EVICS Childbirth Class-Rm6 4:30pm-Oratorio Society Rehearsal-FH	**9** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 9:30am-Finance Committee-L 11:00am-Prayer Team-Conference 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH,Lounge	**10** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:00am-Building & Grounds-L 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 12:00pm-Quota Club-Rm6 1:30PM-Nada Quartet Rehearsal-MR 3:00pm-Worship & Music Committee-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 4:30pm-Deacons-L 6:00pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	**11** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:00am-Mission & Outreach-L 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:30pm-EP Chorale Rehearsal-FH	**12** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:15am-Estes Valley Library Book-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	**13** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Mixed Nuts Al-Anon-L	**14** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 9:00am-Girl Scout Troop 76907-Rm6 10:30am-EVICS Children's Choir Rehearsal-Rm3 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
15 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:30pm-Oratorio Society Rehearsal-FH	**16** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:15am-Estes Valley Library Writing-Rm6 11:00am-Prayer Team-Conference 11:30am-PW Circle-Library 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH,Lounge 4:00pm-Session-L	**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** **17** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 12:00pm-PEO Chapter AV-L 1:00pm-Personnel Committee-Conf 1:30PM-Nada Quartet Rehearsal-MR 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:00pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	**18** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH 6:00pm-EP Education Foundation-L 6:30pm-EP Chorale Rehearsal-FH	**19** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 3:00pm-Columbarium Committee-L 4:00pm-Chancel Bells-FH 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 6:30pm-Chancel Choir-MR	**20** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:00pm-EP Chorale Rehearsal-S,MR 6:30pm-Mixed Nuts Al-Anon-L	**21** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:00am-Girl Scout Troop 70449-Rm6 10:30am-EVICS Children's Choir Rehearsal-Rm3 2:00pm-EP Chorale Concert-S,L,MR 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
22 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:30pm-Grace & Grub Pizza Party-FH	**23** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 11:00am-Prayer Team-Conference 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH,Lounge	**24** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 12:00pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge 12:00pm-Quota Club-Rm6 1:30PM-Nada Quartet Rehearsal-MR 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:00pm-Estes Valley Chamber Singers-MR 6:45pm-Hispanic Bible Study-Rm6	**25** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 12:00pm-Bible Study-L 4:00pm-Joyful Bells-FH	**26** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 6:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge	**27** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 9:30am-Merry Marthas-Lounge 10:00am-Adult Study Group-L 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH 6:30pm-Mixed Nuts Al-Anon-L	**28** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 10:30am-EVICS Children's Choir Rehearsal-Rm3 5:30pm-One Day at a Time AA-Lounge
29 8:30am-Journeys-L 10:00am-Worship-Sanctuary	**30** 7:00am-AA Early Worms-Rm6 9:30am-Hospitality Committee-Lounge 11:00am-Prayer Team-Conference 3:00pm-Ballet Renaissance-FH,Lounge					