

# The Mustard Seed

April 2016

## **April Message from Pastor Anne ~ Moving Forward Together**

Dear Collbran Congregational Church, U.C.C. Members and Friends,

We have shared joyful and meaningful worship services especially with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (Passover Seder Meal), and Easter. What great excitement on Easter to watch the children find Easter eggs and treats in Mother's Park! We celebrated the 12 children and 2 youths in attendance on Easter Morning. The Season of Easter continues with the study of discipleship for modern day Disciples in 2016. Cherished member Ben Hayes passed away on March 16. A "Celebration of Life" Memorial Service for Ben was held in our sanctuary on Saturday, April 9. The Crystal Crackers provided beautiful and inspirational music. Thanks to all who sang! We were blessed to have Ben and Neta's daughter Susie here with us.

You likely have noticed how closely aligned to the Sermon our Children's Messages have been. I appreciate your positive feedback on how the kids' message supports and informs the sermon. Thank you!

I would like to express appreciation for all the members of our Church Council and their consistent hard work and dedication. I find our meetings productive and fun.

Our Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings, 9:45 – 10:45AM, has begun. We are studying *The New Testament* using The Great Courses guidebook and video. Come and join us whenever you can! You are welcome to join in whenever your schedule will allow.

## **A Little More Background about Pastor Anne**

*(Continuing from the March newsletter.)*

Sveto and I moved to Junction City, Kansas in 1986 and taught at Fort Riley Military Post. There we belonged to a Methodist Church for a year then transferred our membership to the United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas. Missing the mountains, we moved again in 1988 to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. We joined St. John's Episcopal Church and became involved with the ministry of the local congregation, as well as the services and maintenance of Chapel of the Transfiguration in nearby Teton National Park. We returned to Grand Junction in 1991 to be close to Sveto's parents. Teaching jobs were fulfilling, friends were plenty, church life meaningful; yet what we longed for was a child. Infertility was our wilderness and we learned much along the journey to adoption. We traveled to China and adopted Elliot on March 26, 1997.

### **Devotional for April**

I recently read a devotional piece from the Peace Christian Church, UCC in Overland Park, Kansas. (Shared by Edith Ann's daughter.) A financial analyst shared an article. It began: "Be better prepared to take advantage of the next market downturn. See if opportunities exist within your current investment accounts. A declining stock market can be intimidating, but it can also create opportunities for savvy investors." The writer was very interested, not because of the financial advice it gave; but, because with a few changed words, we can apply the advice to life. "Be better prepared to take advantage of the next ***challenge in your life.*** See if opportunities exist within your ***current approach. Challenging situations*** can be intimidating, but ***they*** can also create opportunities for ***making your life and the lives of others better.***" It is natural, normal, and healthy for us all to react to situations as appropriate. We eat when we are hungry; we cry when we are upset; we get frustrated when we see injustice; we rejoice when the team wins; we get frustrated when

things don't go as expected. This is all appropriate. We are human. Yet, as time goes by we need to move on. We need to learn from the past and focus on what's next rather than use our "present" to dwell on what we have lost. Let's not get trapped in negative thoughts or, on the flipside, dwell on our previous success and rest on our laurels. We have to continually push forward and embrace the future. Learn from what has happened, good and bad, and move on trying the best we can to grow in positive ways.\* These ideas represent a "Growth Mindset". A Growth Mindset is one in which the stakeholders are open to new ideas while cherishing the familiar routines and values which are part of the organization. We are at a wonderful, fertile time in our church community life together. We are moving forward, embracing everyone, no exceptions. ***Wherever you are on life's journey ~ YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.*** See you in church!

With appreciation and anticipation,

Pastor Anne

\*Portions from John Jordan, Director of Peace AChord and Peace Together.

## **Winter Coat Giveaway.**

The Womens Fellowship would like to extend sincere thanks to Fred Feller and the Collbran Supply staff for supporting the Winter Coats Giveaway by providing space for and help with the coats.

A generous donation from the Bruton's made it the best supplied display ever. Thanks to everyone who dropped coats off for the Give Away at Collbran Supply. Over 60 coats were chosen to keep someone in our community warm this past winter.

As the school year wraps up and as you begin putting winter clothes away, please drop off any winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves that could be used for this next winter. They can be dropped off at the Collbran Supply or the Collbran Congregational Church.

## **Web Site Changes**

For anyone interested in keeping up with scheduled events or who would like to read the minutes or annual reports from prior months or check out past and current issues of the Mustard Seed, please go to the church website at [collbrancongregationalchurch.org](http://collbrancongregationalchurch.org). In addition, there are old and new photos, a profile of the valley, and pastoral search information.

## **New Custodian**

Becky Schowalter has been selected to be the custodian at the church.

Welcome, Becky, and thank you for stepping into the position with such ease and efficiency. We appreciate what you do!

Nancy Karlson has taken this time to retire as church custodian, after years of caring service to our wonderful old building. We still rely on Nancy to keep things moving along smoothly downstairs and watching over the seasonal changes within the church. Thank you, Nancy, for your years of dedication and service.

## **Womens Fellowship**

Elections were held for the group and officers are as follows: Nancy Karlson, President, Clara Mae Ward, Vice President, and Julia Cox, Secretary-Treasurer. These women have served in these positions for the past years and the group really appreciates their continued service.

Spring events began with the Maundy Thursday Dinner on March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. The Seder meal was prepared by the Womens Fellowship and the Stewards. The lamb was served with

traditional herbs, rice, carrots, and the other elements of the meal. The service was presided over by Pastor Anne Djokic. Everyone is always welcome to enjoy this celebration with us.

April 12, the women from Grand Junction's 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational, UCC came to Collbran to enjoy lunch with the Collbran church women. Friends shared good conversation during lunch and the program "Antique Fabrics" brought many memories of family and growing up in a different era for the women. There were beautiful dresses from as far back as the 1850's. Some of the local women brought clothing from their past and Debbie Hamm modeled a beautiful pink suit from the "Jackie Kennedy" era, complete with the shoes.

The Senior Tea is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:15 pm in the dining room. Please bring a plate of cookies or tea sandwiches for the tea table. Dave Wallin will be performing, to everyone's delight. Invitations have gone out. If you have a graduating senior in your house please check with them for time and date.

### **Womens Fellowship Mission Projects for 2016**

Health Kits for the Grand Junction Rescue Mission – Delivered in December

Hats and mittens/gloves for Mrs. Randall's pre-school class at PV School.

Winter Coat Give-away at the Collbran Supply. Coats are put out in November and left until nicer weather returns in March.

The group will also support the Plateau Valley Resource Center and the Plateau Valley Cancer Support group Butterfly Release on Memorial Day, through the donations made directly to noisy offerings in church.

The Annual Turkey Dinner is scheduled for November 19, 2016, serving from 11:30am to 1:30 pm. Please plan ahead and remember to bring your friends.

**Nancy Karlson.**

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 22, 23, 24, AND SUNDAY THE 26<sup>TH</sup>.**

**CAVE QUEST, Following Jesus, The Light of the World is the curriculum that has been chosen for this summer's program. Ages 3 – 4 years, pre-K and Kindergarten, First and Second Grades, Third and Forth Grades and Fifth and Sixth Grades are invited to attend and enjoy the lessons, crafts, snacks and games. SEE YOU THERE!!!**

## **VBS Lasagna Dinner APRIL 29, 2016 5PM-6:30PM**

Summer is coming quickly so it is time for the annual Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser for Vacation Bible School. Fresh, homemade Lasagna, Garlic French Bread, Tossed Salad, and homemade Dessert will be prepared by Sue Bellotti and helpers.

On Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. from 5-6:30pm Lasagna Dinner will be served in the church dining room. Take out is also available. Call 487-3387 or Sue at 487-3474 to order. Pick up your order between 4pm and 6pm on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Sue Bellotti – Christian Education

## **SENIOR TEA**

The Senior Tea will be May 3, 2016 at the Collbran Congregational Church dining room. The tea begins at 4:15pm. Graduates are invited to enjoy a beautiful Tea, prepared by the church women with entertainment by magician, Dave Wallin.

The Senior Tea has been an annual spring event for more than 80 years. Some grandparents of Plateau Valley graduates remember coming to their Senior Tea 70 or more years ago.

When Grand Mesa High School was established at the Collbran Job Corp Center, students graduating during the spring were invited. Staff from both Plateau Valley and Grand Mesa High School is invited.

In the earliest days the Senior Tea was for mothers and daughters, only. Later on, both boys and girls were invited to attend with their mothers. Now both parents sometimes attend with their graduates as well as grandparents.

Congratulations, Graduates! See you at the Senior Tea!

**WORD COLUMNS ANSWER:** “Life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot” Deuteronomy 19:21 (KJV)

**HEALED BY HIS WOUNDS ANSWER:** “He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities: upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed”  
Isaiah 53:5

**VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL FUNDRAISER  
LASAGNA DINNER AT THE  
COLLBRAN**

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DINING ROOM.  
APRIL 29, 2016 5PM -6:30PM CALL AHEAD  
FOR TAKE OUT. 487-3387**

**THE MUSTARD SEED**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
P.O. BOX 160  
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**APRIL 2016**

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