

## The Mustard Seed September 2016

### September Message from Pastor Anne Djokic

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

I hope you have had an enjoyable, restful, relaxing, meaningful, and fun summer! Change is constant and I pray that changes in your life during the past three months have been gentle and for the best. I send prayers of thanksgiving for each one of you! May you know God's blessings and care in these days to come.

There are several summer highlights in the life of our church to share with you! June 9 – 12, I traveled with Karen Caton (Choir Director at First Congregational Church, U.C.C., Grand Junction) to Salt Lake City where the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ annual meeting was held. We stayed on the campus of the University of Utah in the dorms. The conference was held in the Ft. Morgan Post, historical section of that campus. The theme of this year's conference was "Blooming in the Desert ~ Empowering Our Vision: From the Inside Out". Nearly 50 of our Rocky Mountain Conference 77 churches ~ from Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah ~ were represented at this event. I was invited to sing with the Praise Band which accompanied all of the worship services and meetings within the conference. Administrative work was carried on within the overall schedule of Worship. The Reverend Sue Artt was voted in unanimously as our (*your!!*) Settled Conference Minister. We attended workshops and worship that lifted up the theme "Conferring Our Future Together". It is wonderful to know that we have the support of the entire Conference at our fingertips ~ only a phone call or an e-mail away!

I have posted photos of my time at the conference just inside the front door of our church for your viewing and enjoyment. Collbran Congregational Church, U.C.C. received a recognition certificate congratulating our congregation and community for 115 years of ministry. I was proud to receive the award and it can be seen at the church. I took many photos during the conference and sent them on a CD to Cory Kibler in Denver, the communications person for RMC of UCC. He will be posting these photos on the RMC UCC website to share in the joy of this conference.

Our Vacation Bible School, "*Cave Quest, Following Jesus, the Light of the World!*" was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers, teachers, helpers, snack food preparers, student assistants, and most importantly the **45** 😊 children who attended June 22, 23, and 24!! What an energetic and fun loving group of beautiful children. I enjoyed leading the opening music portion each day and the closing singing as well. On Sunday, June 26 the church service was very well attended as the kids shared their songs, Bible verses, and lessons of the Vacation Bible School. My two sisters Karen (Kentucky) and Valerie (Nebraska) were delighted to be in worship on this special Vacation Bible School celebration morning.

Tragically and sadly, we lost Jerry (JR) Hamm on June 24<sup>th</sup>. A Memorial Service was held for him at Debbie and JR's, beautiful Esperanza Ranch on Saturday, July 2 at 1:00PM. There was sharing by friends and family ~ music, poetry, and love expressed by the very large crowd of at

least 300 loving family and friends. He is truly missed by all of us, each and every day! Thank you all for reaching out to Debbie and Family.

Sunday School for our Children continued throughout the summer. The children have sung 'now and then' in our worship services ~ impromptu at times ~ and certainly loved and appreciated by all. We love our children!!

On Saturday, August 20 I attended the Plateau Valley Christian Women's Network Luncheon held at the Grace Bible Church. The program topic was "Nourishing Your Heart, Mind, & Soul." If you are interested in joining the next luncheon in November (TBA) please call Dory at 268-5639. There were fourteen women in attendance from Plateau Valley area churches.

At 4:00 PM, same afternoon, August 20, Melissa Redding and Chad Hopkins were married at our church. As always, it is an honor to officiate at special services including weddings. The couple lives in Mesa. Thanks to Sue Bellotti for providing organ music and Nancy Karlson for building needs.

I have been back on duty teaching at Clifton Elementary School in Grand Junction as of August 4. Students are on board and we are off to a good beginning!

Please be sure to read about a special worship service and celebration in the Mustard Seed this month. **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 PM at the Collbran Congregational, U.C.C. Church.**

I will be attending the Western Association Fall Meeting in Gunnison late afternoon of Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1.

Always remember that wherever you are on life's journey ~ YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

With love,

Pastor Anne

## **Christmas Recital:**

The Christmas Recital has been scheduled for December 4, 2016 at 5 P.M. If you know of anyone interested in performing, please have them contact me. This is a wonderful start to the Christmas season. I will be sending out the usual letters mid-September, inviting performers to join us. Please offer a special invitation to anyone giving piano lessons in the area as we would love to hear the children's Christmas music at the recital.

## **Quiz Answers:**

## Sunday School

Sunday School was active during the summer, which was new for us. We had a wonderful time and with the help of Edith Ann and Julia Cox we had regular classes. The fall session begins September 11, 2016. We will be studying the Old Testament. We will begin practice on a special song for the Christmas recital and to perform in church.

Adult Sunday School Classes will be starting soon!

## AUGUST TRUSTEE ACTIVITY:

### Church Building:

- Toilet repairs completed to upstairs toilets. (Rory) with parts expense.
- John Bailey replaced door and frame to Dining Room due to persistent problems with its integrity and ability to lock it appropriately.
- Big Dog Electric (Fletcher) agreed to replace the on at dusk/off at day light fixture above the main office door due to its inconsistent functioning at night.
- Ceiling lights in gymnasium have been replaced with LCD lights
- Overflow TV to AV system still needs to be connected.
- Upkeep and repairs are ongoing to the yard sprinkler system.

### Parsonage:

- Exterior door knobs repaired or replaced. Keyed all to same lock.
- Door Lights replaced. (Rory)

Submitted by Nancy Karlson, Annie Anderson, Cindy Price

## Financial Report 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2016

Income	Expense	
\$7646.00	\$13851.00	Loss of -\$6205.00
Building maintenance and repairs -	\$3224.00	
Utilities	\$ 1965.00	
Insurance	\$ 2181.00	

We have drawn funds from the savings account to cover the expenses. The maintenance on the building continues to be a draw on funds.

## Western Association Conference

The Western Association Conference will be held in Gunnison at the Congregational UCC Church Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Anyone wanting to attend, please contact Pastor Anne or Sue Bellotti.

### Fall Birthdays

#### August

Chapman	Helen
Hamm	Justine
Hoyt	Casey
Rollins	Scott
Branson	Rose

#### October

Rollins	Max
Addison	Lexi

#### September

Anderson	Ann
Currier	Emily
Currier	Josh
Hamm	Jacob
Weimer	Rex
Snow	Marie
Tyler	Scott

## Turkey Dinner

The Annual Turkey Dinner is scheduled for November 19, 2016. Donations will be requested as the event gets closer. Nancy Karlson will be in charge of the planning. Sue Bellotti will be managing the kitchen. Please mark your calendars and plan on participating and attending.

Womens Fellowship meetings will begin in September on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the dining room. Plans for the Turkey Dinner will be discussed and mission plans for the fall will be decided. Please plan on attending.

## Wedding

Melissa Lynn Redding and Chad Wayne Hopkins, were married at the Collbran Congregational Church on August 20, 2016, The couple with many family members and friends celebrated their marriage at the Mesa Community Center following the service. Their daughter, Annebelle, shared in the joyful event.

Our church has been the location for many wedding for the past 120 years. Chad is the grandson of Judy Skrbina. He is also the nephew to Cindy York and Chris Long, both of whom were married in this church.

Thank you, Chad and Melissa, for continuing with this tradition.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

### **“Cave Quest, Following Jesus, the Light of the World!”**

We had another successful Vacation Bible School this summer. The program ran from June 22-24 with our program in church on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We had an attendance high of 45 students during the week and 19 children joined us on Sunday for the program. I was delighted with the turnout. We had help from adults in the area to be teachers, office help, classroom helpers, and to prepare and serve snacks. Thank you to the 16+ adults that filled all of those important positions. Pastor Anne kept the morning opening and closing times going with songs and stories and announcements. The children loved her joy and enthusiasm. They all sang songs they knew and learned many new ones. I still hear these songs whenever a group of children are playing together. A very special “Thank You” to her for bringing her loving direction to VBS. \$222.60 was collected for a children based mission project.

Planning for 2017 VBS will begin in March with the Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser and the formation of a committee to pick curriculum and plan crafts and music.

### **Pastor Anne Is Authorized, Fully Licensed to Serve Collbran**

As I celebrate six months with our Collbran Congregational, United Church of Christ Church family and community, I would like to share glad news that I have completed all the requirements for Fully Authorized, Licensed Lay Ministry. Provisional Licensure was provided in January, 2016. Since that time I have completed a second Boundary Training (at the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City; June, 2016).

The Western Association and Rocky Mountain Conference require a psychological evaluation as do most, if not all, denominations in the United States. I completed this process in July, 2016. The final step to the Licensed Lay Minister designation was a meeting with the Church and Ministry committee. This was a meeting of several Western Slope representatives from Eagle, Haydn, and Montrose held in Grand Junction on July 30. At this meeting a vote was unanimously passed to move me from provisional to fully authorized license lay minister in order to serve Collbran Congregational UCC Church. This licensure is active for one year. I will meet annually with this committee to remain licensed and current in my position. Thank you for all your support in this process!

Pastor Anne