

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RECITAL
DECEMBER 3, 2017 5:00 pm
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW**



THE MUSTARD SEED
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. BOX 160
COLLBRAN, CO 81624

DECEMBER 2017

To contact Pastor Anne Djokic:
Church 970-487-3349
Email annef.djokic@gmail.com
www.collbrancongregationalchurch.org



The Annual Christmas recital is held in memory of Shirley Lyons, a long time music teacher in the valley.

If you would like to share your talents with us please contact Sue Bellotti at 487-3474 or bellotti4@msn.com

We would love to have you sing or dance, or play an instrument, or prepare a seasonal reading. All ages are welcome.



**Sue Bellotti
Music Director**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School students created the VBS photo poster from our summer VBS Program.

The children will be studying Old Testament stories until the last week of November, when we will begin to prepare for Christmas with the Advent Sundays.

The children are preparing songs to perform in church and at the Christmas recital on Dec. 3rd.

Preparations are being made for 2018 VBS. The Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser will be held Friday, March 16, 2018. VBS will be Wednesday, Thursday, Friday June 27, 28, & 29, 2018.

We would love to have your children join us. Sunday School begins at 9:45am each Sunday morning and ends at 10:30. All ages welcome.

Sue Bellotti Christian Ed.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

Womens Fellowship met Oct. 10 to discuss the plans for the Annual Turkey Dinner on Nov. 18th. The kitchen was cleaned. Salt and Pepper Shakers cleaned and filled as well as sugar and creamers.

New table covers have been purchased and the old ones discarded.

Cake and Coffee will be served following a graveside service at Clover Cemetery for Lucille Hill the afternoon of Dec 2, 2017

Several beautiful serving pieces have been donated to the Womens Fellowship from the Gene and Delores Scott daughters. Food was also donated to the Food Bank.

Frozen meat is needed for the food bank. Contact Nancy Karlson 487-3740 or Julia Cox 487-3750 if you have any to donate. **Please remember you can receive a receipt for donations to the Church food bank or for donated coats and winter wear for tax purposes.**

12 sets of hats and gloves were collected to be taken to Plateau Valley School Preschool class from the October Mission Project.

November is the outreach program at Veterans Hospital in Grand Junction. We collect new socks, winter hats, and gloves or scarves in adult sizes. We will deliver them to the VA on Nov. 26, 2017.

December health kits for the Grand Junction Rescue Mission will be assembled. We collect soap, shampoo/conditioner, hand lotions, tooth paste and brushes, combs, disposable razors, and hand towels and washcloths to go into these kits. Hotel sizes are super for this project. These will be delivered by December 15. Please bring items you would like to donate to the church prior to Dec. 10th.

The **Winter Coats** project has been set up at Collbran Supply. We thank Fred Feller for the generous use of the space to set up and display these winter coats, snow pants, hats, gloves, and boots. Please drop clean heavy winter clothing items off at the Collbran Supply or the Congregational Church. We are always in need of children's winter gear. As you buy new for this school year please think of us for last year's coats and snow clothes.

Nancy Karlson 487-3740

Julia Cox 487-3750

Clara Mae Ward 487-3297



TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees have been busy this month dealing with water damage from a broken toilet at the parsonage. After the house was dried out by ServiceMaster of Grand Junction and the drywall cut away, carpets removed, and other flooring taken out, longstanding foundation issues with the building were determined to take priority before repairing the water damage.

Two bids for foundation repair were requested, and one company responded.

Foundation Repair of Western Colorado responded and after examining the crawl space and measuring the building's structure, the representative explained the photos he had taken while under the house he made recommendations for repair. These recommendations have been prayerfully considered.

The Trustees met and discussed the problems and possible solutions and made a recommendation to Council on November 13th to proceed with Foundation Repair of Western Colorado for the needed foundation repairs. Council approved the project and the deposit was made to get on their work schedule.

The insurance payment has been received for the water damaged interior of the house and that money has been deposited into the investment fund until it is needed. We plan to seek bids for repairing the interior of the parsonage after the foundation repair is completed.

A second issue of concern has been discussed for several months. This problem is with drainage on the west lawn at the church and has caused problems for several years. Water drainage around the foundation of the kitchen and small meeting room needs to be addressed and water must be directed away from the building.

A representative of Clarke & Co., Inc. of Grand Junction has evaluated this problem and has offered a solution. They have generously donated equipment and an operator to do the work. This work will begin as soon as possible.

It is exciting to have these issues addressed. Please keep the church in your prayers. We continue to rely on our Lord's Guiding Hands and His Endless Love as we make decisions that continue our mission in this community.

Trustees, Sue Bellotti, Julia Cox, Nancy Karlson, Cindy Price

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2017 7PM

Please join in the singing of carols and sharing the Christmas story. We welcome everyone to this family oriented service. Welcome Christmas into your heart and home .



December 24, 7:00PM M. F. ... am ... lly Se ... rvice ... Lessons and Carols
with Candlelight service Pastor Anne's December Message, 2017

Advent, which marks the beginning of a new church year, begins four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. It can be as long as twenty-eight days, if December 25 falls on a Sunday, or as short as twenty-two days, if December 25 falls on a Monday, making Christmas Eve the fourth Sunday of Advent. This is what happens this year, 2017, with only twenty-two days in Advent. During the Advent season, the church prepares for the coming of Christ. Even as we make ready for the baby to be born in Bethlehem, the themes and texts explored during Advent take us beyond the birth to a new moment of expectancy as the Day of Christ approaches and the reign of God is made fully manifest.

The coming of Advent jolts the church out of Ordinary Time with the invasive news that it is time to think about fresh possibilities for human wholeness. Peace is at the heart of the promise born in Advent, but it is difficult to arrive there safely and without becoming vulnerable along the way.

At Advent, God's people summon the courage and the spiritual strength to remember that the holy breaks into the daily. Advent is not a season for passive waiting and watching. It is a season of opening up our lives and our souls with active anticipation and renewed hope.

Let us approach Advent with hope and vulnerability in order to move through this season of expectation and to arrive at Peace on Christmas morning.

May God be with you throughout Advent. Remember, we are on this journey together; and, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Join us in body and spirit. Safe travels!!

With love and blessings,

Pastor Anne

(From The Advent Companion; David L. Bartlett, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long, editors)

SOUP SUPPER AND DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS.

Following church on Sunday November 26, 2017 there will be a lunch of soup, rolls, and dessert before we will begin decorating the church for the Christmas Season. Please plan on joining us for a wonderful day.

Kids of all ages welcome. We need a couple of adults to be ladder climbers !



are invited and all are welcome

For those of you who will be making donations through the Christmas Season... think twice about where you put your hard earned funds!

Non-Profit CEO compensation and how much of each dollar contributed REALLY goes to do good <i>(via Snopes)</i>		Am't of each dollar that goes to the needy
<i>these are the good guys - they really help</i>		
Salvation Army	CEO salary \$13,000	\$ 0.93
Ronald McDonald Houses	CEO has NO salary	\$ 0.90
Lions Club International	\$ 196,847	\$ 0.84
The Veterans of Foreign Wars	\$ 238,211	\$ 0.83
St. Jude Children's Research Hosp	\$ 824,000	\$ 0.81
World Vision	\$ 184,000	\$ 0.81
Make a Wish Foundation	\$ 441,336	\$ 0.75
<i>watch your back here - don't be a sucker</i>		
UNICF <i>(CEO has use of a Rolls Royce)</i>	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 0.14
March of Dimes	\$ 495,000	\$ 0.10
United Way	\$ 1,026,017	\$ 0.09
American Red Cross	\$ 1,030,022	\$ 0.08
Goodwill Industries	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 0.08

Just because it's a national association does not mean that the monies go where you think they should be going! Think before you donate!