

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

The Annual Turkey Dinner on Nov. 19th was a great day. Friends and families from around the valley came together to support the Womens Fellowship and share in a wonderful community dinner. We want to thank everyone for their donations of food and help. A special addition to the kitchen was Larry Bellotti, who came to lift heavy pans, peel potatoes, mash those potatoes, and help keep the food hot as it was served. A special Thank You to Larry.

WINTER COAT GIVE-AWAY

Free coats for the Valley are now available at Collbran Supply. They will be on display until mid-March, 2017. We have given away over 36 coats already. We are always in need of coats and snow clothes in all sizes. Boots, mittens, hats, scarves, snow pants, and vests add to the winter wear for our cold winters. Drop clean winter wear at Collbran Supply or at the Congregational Church. Thanks to those who have already made generous donations.

NOVEMBER MISSION PROJECT

The November mission project is to collect hats, gloves, and socks for the VA Hospital out-patients. We are collecting hats and gloves in good, clean condition but would like the socks to be new. Larger sizes, 10-14, are needed. Call Nancy Karlson 487-3740 if you have questions. We will try to deliver these in December.

RESCUE MISSION HEALTH KITS

Many items for the Health Kits have been gathered over the past year and these bags will be assembled at the December 13th meeting at 10am in the church dining room. They will be delivered that next week. Please call Nancy Karlson if you have items to donate or questions about donations. 487-3740.

Nancy Karlson 487-3740

CHRISTMAS RECITAL DECEMBER 4TH 2016 5:00 PM

Please contact Sue Bellotti 487-3474 with your contribution to this annual event. If you have questions please contact Sue 487-3474 or Ann Anderson 487-3352 and we will be glad to assist. There will be some new young faces this year as well as the older performers. Please don't let this opportunity to share your talents with all of us, in preparation for the Christmas season, pass by unnoticed.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2016 at 7:00PM

Collbran Congregational Church UCC

The Christmas Fund(Veterans of the Cross)

Christmas Eve Offering

#This special gift at Christmas time reminds these Veterans of the Cross that they are not forgotten and that the Church is grateful for their service.

The Christmas Fund is generated from the offering at the Christmas Eve Service at the Collbran Congregational Church, UCC.

Since needs exceed the Christmas Fund Offering and Our Church's Wider Mission contributions, Veterans of the Cross rely on this income for basic needs such as food, utilities, living or medical expenses.

The Christmas Fund helps clergy with small retirement/pensions or emergencies meet their financial needs.

Sometimes those who serve the Church face unforeseen circumstance that creates financial need. Our help—and emergency funds—are available to assist in covering those costs.

December Noisy Offering

The first Sunday of December the Noisy Offering will be collected for the Blanket Fund. The United Church of Christ provides blankets around the nation and the world following disasters such as the floods following Katrina, and the earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal. These blankets can be purchased for a donation for \$10.00. Gift forms are available in the pews every Sunday until Jan 1, 2017.

Greeting Cards

There is a nice display of scriptural greeting cards for birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, and get well at the back of the sanctuary. Please browse through the next time you need a special card. Donations accepted but not necessary.

Advent Devotionals

The Advent Devotional books are in. This year's title is Wolves and Lambs from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group. This year's title, Wolves and Lambs, was chosen because the image of a wolf and a lamb lying down together should be comforting, yes, even sweet.

But it should also be deeply unnerving.

The books are on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Our cost is \$6.00. Donations accepted but not necessary to enjoy the book.

Christian Education

We are excited to report that numbers in our Sunday School classes are increasing. If they remain at the current level we will be looking for an additional teacher for the pre-K and Kindergarten. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping.

Sue Bellotti- Director

Music Report

December is always an exciting month for music in the church. The Advent songs and Christmas carols are familiar and enjoyable to sing or play. The children have two new carols they will share at the Recital and in church. Please let me know if there is a favorite song you would like to sing or hear. We will try to include it in this month's music.

Sue Bellotti, Director



**Join us for the
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,
December 24, 2016 at 7:00 PM.**

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

December 2016

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

Blessings from Pastor Anne

Dear Family and Friends of Collbran Congregational, United Church of Christ Church, Growing up in United Church of Christ parsonages was always an exciting place to be, especially during the Season of Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day! The special traditions we enjoy as a church family together in Collbran, are happily reminiscent of traditions that I have loved and cherished throughout my childhood and adult life. I encourage you to join in one or all of the special activities mentioned in our newsletter this month. It may be that reaching out and helping others makes Christmas “happen for you”. I have found that during the holidays and the hubbub, which can be a fun part of the season, I watch for the opportunity to do that little something (*secretly if I can pull it off*) that makes a difference for another person; and, *even better*, if the gift of time or help or listening is shared with a stranger, not a person I already know! I look forward to worshipping with you; Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace during Sunday worship and then the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve at our Candlelight Service; studying the “Wolves and Lambs” Advent Devotional as you may do; preparing the way of the Lord in the many traditions of our congregation; and on Christmas Morning ~ we will worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ~with Christmas blessings and love, Pastor Anne.

Advent Song (a neo-traditional chant by Christine and John McIntosh)

Look, God, look
In the vastness of your dark
Hear this song
In the chorus of the world
Where I sing
For the glory of your coming
Held by love
As the music pours from me
A flame within
As the night falls around me
Hear my prayer
And come through the darkness
Hold me waiting
As you wait to be born.

An Advent Prayer (by Leonardo Boff)

Unexpected God, your advent alarms us.
Wake us from drowsy worship, from the sleep that neglects love,
and the sedative of misdirected frenzy.
Awaken us now to your coming, and bend our angers into your peace. Amen