



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

AUGUST 2018

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

Pastor Anne's Message for August, 2018

Greetings and blessings to you in August! I would like to share excerpts of my message given on Sunday, July 15, 2018. I was so very captivated by the rescue of the 12 young boys in Thailand and their coach; the soccer team trapped by the monsoon rains in the Tham Luang Nang Non Cave. The sermon title is:

“God in the Rescue”

The hike was never supposed to be considered that dangerous. Initially, a way for the assistant coach to learn to manage the young soccer players on his own and a kind of team-building exercise, quickly took a dangerous and scary turn that captivated the world for several weeks. The boys and their coach went missing on June 23rd. Likely you heard about the daily struggles and progress as reports came out in the media. By June 27th the search widened and roughly 1,000 army and navy personnel, along with volunteers, joined in the effort. International involvement expanded. On July 2 British divers found the boys, all still alive! They were standing on a shelf above the waters some 2.5 miles inside the cave. Accompanying the dive team was Dr. Richard Harris (also an expert diver) from Adelaide, Australia. He was tasked with giving the medical all-clear for each evacuation and decided in what order the boys would leave the cave. This expert team worked together very closely. Tragically, on July 6, Saman Gunan, a Thai Navy SEAL, died when his oxygen ran out as he was underwater in the cave taking air tanks in for the rescue. Individuals with very specialized skills had dropped everything to go to Thailand to help. July 8th the rescuers entered the cave and then emerged with four of the boys, eleven hours later! Between July 9th and 10th all the boys and the coach were rescued!

During the rescue there was an overwhelming spirit of solidarity and ‘mate-ship’ across the country of Australia. In addition to Dr. Harris, twenty more Australians worked on the rescue operation. “This is what Australians do.” ~ A good friend, a good neighbor, and helping out when and where it is needed. Whether it is helping children in Thailand trapped in a cave, helping girls in Cambodia escape exploitation, or helping Fijians rebuild health centers after Cyclone Winston, Australian aid helps when people are in need. This is true of many other countries as well. The way that the **entire world came together** to free the children trapped

in the Thai Cave and “watched on,” **and prayed**, until every person was free, is symbolic of our opportunity to work together in the global community. This incredible miracle of events and pulling together of so many capable and amazing minds, bodies, leadership skills, and spirits, support what we find in scripture.

Proverbs 3:27 “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.” **Psalms 133:1** “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” **Galatians 6:2** “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” **John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” **Ephesians 4:3** “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” **Romans 12:16** “Live in harmony with one another.” **1 Peter 3:8** “Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”

This event was more than a “feel good” occurrence. It was a worldwide “holding of hands and hearts” because clearly, we realize, **God was in the Rescue**. Amen

Praying for you and with you ~

Love,

Pastor Anne ☺

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School classes will begin for the fall term Sept. 9, 2018. Everyone is so busy with the start of school and the end of summer events we will wait to begin classes. We have two teachers this year. Julia Cox will be teaching the younger group, under the age of 5yrs. Sue Bellotti will be teaching the children 5 years and older. We will begin with a study of Old Testament prophets.

Please arrive at the church for Sunday School by 9:45am to enjoy the opening with songs and announcements. Sunday School with crafts and lessons will be over at 10:30am. Please plan on meeting your child near the door of their classroom.

Church will return to regular 11AM start time Sept. 9th, the first Sunday after Labor Day.

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School took place over June 27, 28, 29th with a very well attended program presented by the children and Pastor on Sunday, July 1st. Twenty children arrived to sing songs, perform a skit, and recite Bible verses, sharing what they had learned with the congregation.

A special thanks to the parents for helping your kids get to Bible School and supporting them at the program. Twenty-five adults and young people worked as teachers, snack servers, craft director, and helpers. Everyone worked together to provide a fun and educational week for the children. From the canoe in the rapids and the tents for stories in the gym the whole building gets put to use.

Thank you all for pulling together for another successful summer program!

Sue Bellotti: Christian Education

Musicians Report:

While I was traveling in Italy and Ireland with Amy, Marc, and the kids, Anne was busy providing music for a few of the Sundays I was away.

Kurt Thompson provided beautiful piano music on June 24th. I want to thank him for taking the time to prepare and share his talent with the congregation. Kurt is a favorite of ours.

Thanks to all for making it **work** while I was gone.

Sue Bellotti : Music Director

Trustees Report:

Well, I can only say it has been one busy year for the Collbran Congregational Church when it comes to repairs, upkeep, maintenance, fix-its, unexpected breakdowns, or major casualties at the parsonage and the church.

As you read in earlier newsletters you know about the water damage at the parsonage and the need for major foundation work from old water problems under the house. These were taken

care of and the home is beautiful. It was then decided to put it on the market and sell it so we would no longer have to maintain an empty house. The house sold quickly and the papers were signed in late June.

The dust had settled there just in time for us to discover the broken waterline from the town's meter to the sprinkler system for the park. Kent Hill worked the repair into his busy summer schedule and we were finally able to get some water back on the grass in the park. It is recovering pretty well. The Farmer's Market gathers in Mother's Park every Saturday during the



summer to share their bountiful wares and fresh produce with all of us. It is great to have the park being used regularly.

The sprinklers were the worse for wear so they were evaluated by Bob Mason from Deep Creek Landscaping, Inc. and the necessary repairs were made. We are now efficiently using the water and not having to deal with broken sprinkler heads and leaks.

As we were working on the park the hot water heater in the basement of the church drew its last breath and gave up the ghost. It has been replaced and we are back in business, (almost).



There were joints in the vinyl in the kitchen area that had become separated and those edges curled from water damage so it was decided to replace the floor in the kitchen, storage room, and hallway area of the basement. Of course, nothing is ever easy and as they worked to remove the old vinyl and adhesive and do some necessary leveling on the floor

for the new vinyl a water leak was discovered under the sink section. Maybe two water leaks, or just some seeping, or dripping. No matter what, it now requires some re-plumbing of the sink section. That will be evaluated next week. We plan to address this issue as soon as possible.

Julia Cox, Sue Bellotti, and Cyndi Leinberger painted the west wall of the kitchen with a fresh layer of white paint so the wall is clean when the stove and refrigerators are put back into place. A full paint job for the kitchen, hall and storage area is probably in the future.

Norm McCallister lent his talents to help restore the sign in front of the church. The lighting was repaired so it is now illuminated at night and a UCC emblem has been ordered for the sign. You can see the restoration in the photo on the cover of the newsletter.

Norm also refreshed the paint on the entry porch and it does look clean and sharp. Thank you, Norm!

Thanks to the Town of Collbran for the placement of the solar street light on the corner of High St. and Elm St. These pretty lights are an asset to our town. We appreciate the additional light



for dark evenings.

I think this is a pretty broad description of what we have been doing this summer.

Many thanks to Delbert for his mowing and yard work and Becky for her continual care for the inside of the building. Thank you for your prayerful support. Please continue to lift our church in prayer.

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