

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

March 2020

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VBS FUNDRAISER

LASAGNA DINNER

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

4:00PM-6:30PM

CONG. CHURCH DINING ROOM



Pastor Anne's Message for March, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of the Collbran Congregational, United Church of Christ Church,

“Momentum! Purpose! Love! Family! Fellowship!” These words come to mind when describing our worship life, church life, and community life together. What a blessing and rich fabric of individuals we are! Growing up with two younger sisters and handmade quilts on every bed, we would draw the quilts up to our chins in winter and play **“I Spy”** with the quilt colors and patterns. **“I Spy”** a deep sense of gratefulness every time we worship on Sunday mornings. **“I Spy”** a dozen plus children; eager, bright eyed, and intelligent young people ready to learn about Jesus and God's love for us all. **“I Spy”** a community of believers praying together as a congregation, lifting up our joys and sorrows. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Come and join (if you can) in the tapestry and fabric of our rich lives, and journey through Lent enfolded in the loving quilt of learners and people of God. All are welcome. **“I Spy”** YOU!! Bring your stories, your strengths, your vulnerabilities and come! Just come!



Heather Power, Lloyd Power's granddaughter, asked me to baptize her in our church on February 9th. She requested that the baptism service be “just like her Papa's” (Lloyds' baptism held in July of 2017. And so it was! Heather's family was very well represented and present in the service for her baptism. Heather's father, Eli, held the

baptismal font, just as her brother Davis held the baptismal font for Grandpa Lloyd. She received a Certificate of Baptism, a candle, and a white rose to celebrate and commemorate this sacrament. Refreshments beautifully decorated for Valentine's Day were provided by the Steven Hittle Family. Congratulations Heather!



In the month of March we will welcome 12 new members to our congregation. If you are interested in joining the church please contact Pastor Anne Djokic or Acting Moderator Cindy Price. (annef.djokic@gmail.com)

Please read about the upcoming Installation Service (and dinner to follow) on Saturday, April 25th at 11:00AM in our sanctuary in this edition of The Mustard Seed. Come and celebrate with us!

In His Love,
Pastor Anne

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting for the Collbran Congregational Church UCC was held Jan. 26, 2020 following a potluck lunch.

The meeting was opened with a celebration for Nancy Karlson. She was presented with flowers and a card signed by the congregation. Cake and ice cream were served in her honor.

Nancy has served the church for decades as general building manager, custodian, snow removal and lawn care supervisor, Women's Fellowship President and member, and teacher. She has managed the Foodbank and scheduled events for the building. She supervised the Annual Turkey Dinner with everything from shopping, decorations, and food preparation. She knows who makes great cakes and pies and who to ask to come in to help with set-up or clean-up for events.

Nancy has decided it is time for her to step back from these responsibilities. She has been a supporter and promoter of the Congregational Church and we want her to know how very much we appreciate all she has given to us and done for us. THANK YOU, NANCY



Anyone wanting to read the Annual Report can access it on the collbrancongregationalchurch.org website. It is under NEWSLETTERS. If you would like a printed copy please contact Cindy Price or Sue Bellotti.



FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

We want to recognize Becky Cornett for the beautiful arrangements of silk flowers she creates for the sanctuary every month or two. These are such a beautiful addition to the worship space. The photo is of the February arrangement.

Thank you, Becky.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

Due to the loss of the membership records book several years ago, an effort to rebuild them has begun. Cindy Price, Monica Klingler, and Sue Bellotti met in December to review what information has been found in various records.

A new list of members has been compiled. We realize there are so many we don't have on this list. If you are a member of the Collbran Congregational Church UCC from years ago or more recent and you want to be sure you are on the list please reach out to us. Families often joined as a group and lists of those who are or were members of the church can be emailed to bellotti4@msn.com or mailed to

Collbran Congregational Church, PO Box 160, Collbran, CO 81624. We would love to hear from anyone who might have this information.

Membership records are important for any church. These records contain birth dates, spousal information, and often date of death. An effort will be made to review the extensive obituary files that Peggy Shiflet has collected in an effort to fill in many of the past members. These older records often include names of children, parents, and other information like military service and occupation.

As this information is gathered and organized we may try to include it on the church website. Anyone interested in this kind of treasure hunt is welcome to come aboard. It will be no small job in the beginning.

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR ANNE DJOKIC

Pastor Anne Djokic has been serving the Collbran Congregational, United Church of Christ Church as a Designated Pastor for four years. The Collbran Congregational Church Council and the Western Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ have requested that she now become our "Called Pastor." **Her Installation Service will be on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 11:00 AM** in the church sanctuary. A dinner will follow in the dining room. All are welcome! Come and celebrate with us!

Since Pastor Anne has retired from her full time teaching position with School District 51, she is enjoying even more time to make visits to the hospitals, nursing homes, and personal homes of those often unable to get out for church.

She has represented our church in such a way, that we are seeing continued growth in the congregation of both children and adults. She frequently is asked to pray before group meetings in Grand Junction and Collbran. She brings a joy and light which reflects her love of God and her service to the church.

STEWARDS REPORT

Jeanne Reeves always begins her Stewards Report at the council meeting with " We rang the bell and greeted the people." She goes on to list the other jobs the Stewards have performed during the month.

There is so much to being a Steward. Yes, they certainly are there to ring the bell and greet the people but they are there also to answer questions and assist anyone who might need it. They hand out the bulletins, take the offering, and manage the additional mission inserts during the year. They are often called on to serve as greeters at other services and events.

They bring in the Light of Christ at the beginning of each service and take it out at the end. They teach the younger people in church how to perform these duties appropriately, as well. It makes everyone happy to see these youngsters ringing the bell and lighting candles.

The Stewards also prepare Communion on the first Sunday of each month and at any other time it is requested.

Whenever there is a 5th Sunday in a month the cash offering goes to the Steward's Fund. This money is set aside for the Stewards to use at their discretion. It is often used to help church families during times of need, gas for a doctor's appointment, help with a heating bill, flowers and/or small gifts for the sick.

Christmas Poinsettias, Easter Lilies, and Palms for Palm Sunday are purchased by the Stewards. Congregants often purchase one of these flowers in memory of a loved one or to honor a friend or family member.



The By-laws describe their duties as such: *Steward responsibilities include the following: aid the pastor in the administration of the ordinances of the church and assist the pastor generally in the spiritual care of the congregation and shall, in the absence of the pastor or any stated supply, provide a temporary supply of the pulpit and conduct the services of worship. The Board of Stewards, in cooperation with the church clerk, shall make an annual survey in December of the church roll and submit recommendations regarding necessary revisions to the Church Council in January in order that the per capita report to the conference is kept current. The Board of Stewards shall consist of four persons.*

You are so much more. We appreciate our Stewards and want them to know that. Thank you ladies for all that you do!

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees have a busy year ahead. Ben Franklin is still working on the furnace repairs and will work toward completing the plumbing in the kitchen.

Signs have been printed and laminated to be secured to the area around the gas range in the kitchen. Signs to remind people using the building to check that the heat is turned down, lights off, and the door securely locked have been posted by the doors.

The fire extinguishers were checked and all is well there.

Becky Schowalter has agreed to add the care of the dining room to her contract. This will be discussed with the council at the March meeting.

We have Terminex treat the exterior of the building and in the kitchen area every quarter. This really helps with everything but cedar bugs.

NOISY OFFERING

The Noisy Offering is taken on the first Sunday of each month by the children. These shiny noisy tin buckets give the offering a happy sound.

Many years ago Faye Gallegos served as interim pastor for our church and she brought this practice with her. It quickly became a tradition for our church. In the pews in the sanctuary you will find a card listing the local, national, or international missions the council has selected for the year. These pocket change offerings have brought an average of \$1000.00 each year into the church which is sent directly to the chosen mission. Acts 20:35. ... "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Mark 12: 41-44 speaks to the widow generously giving her mites when she had so little to give. **Be a joyful "noisy" giver.** Thank you.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL LASAGNA DINNER FUNDRAISER

MARCH 13, 2020 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DINING ROOM

The Vacation Bible School Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2020. It will be held in the church dining room and we will be serving dinner from 5:00PM to 6:30PM. Take out is available and we will take calls from 4:00 PM on the 13th. Please pick up before 6:30 PM. We will be serving a traditional Lasagna Dinner the menu will include:

Lasagna with cheese and meat
Tossed Green Salad with dressing
Garlic French bread
Dessert
Beverage

A gluten free Lasagna will be available as well.

Adults \$10.00

Children \$5.00



ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVANCE

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020 was celebrated following our worship service Sunday, February 23rd. Thirty-six people chose to participate ~ either receiving the ashes on their forehead or the back of their hand. The Season of Lent is here. We are preparing for Easter with prayer and reading the scriptures. The Lenten Devotionals are available at church.

(Josie with her cousin, Hunter)



(Bridgit with her ash cross)

