

THE MUSTARD SEED
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO BOX 160
COLLBRAN, CO 81624

OCTOBER 2020

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Editors: Tilda Evans and Sue Bellotti

Annual Turkey Dinner

Saturday, November 14, 2020
Pickup between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm
\$10 Adults \$5 Children under 12

Call to reserve your meals

Julia – 487-3750

Sue – 487-3474

Congregational Church – 487-3349

Leave a message if necessary.



Pastor Anne's Message, October 2020

Dear Family and Friends of Collbran Congregational Church, U.C.C.,

I hope this message finds you healthy and well, enjoying the gorgeous autumn colors ~ yellow and gold; red, orange, and shades of brown in the ground cover. When not hazy or smoky, the bright, blue fall skies of western Colorado make for great photography. I took over 125 pictures in just 5 hours!! Sveto and I drove over the Grand Mesa starting in Collbran on Monday, September 28th. We packed a picnic lunch and headed south toward Bonham Reservoir. Near Twin Peaks Bible Camp, I hopped out of our vehicle to take pictures of a particularly radiant stand of aspen trees. From around a corner, four cattle lumbered down the hill making their way single file! I don't believe they noticed us.

Since March and our new routines with stay-at-home weeks and months, I have discovered several advantages to slowing down my usual hustle and bustle. We have done more cooking which takes a little extra preparation time. At the Cross Orchards Farmer's Market, I bought green and red peppers which I stuffed with meat, cheese, Spanish rice, and fresh tomatoes ~ once a week! Although peaches were at a premium and hard to find this summer, we managed to make several peach pies.

We have been worshipping in person in our sanctuary for all of June, July, August, September, and now well into October. It is "THE BEST" to be back together in person and to see everyone on Sunday mornings! Our hymnals and song booklets have been returned to the pews many weeks ago. (Earlier in the summer I printed weekly song sheets to minimize the sharing of materials.) Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month, just as always. We have had four baptisms since July; two in worship and two in the Colorado River in Palisade.



I want to thank everyone in our congregation: members, friends, and visitors (we have had ten!) for your flexibility with the small adjustments we have made to follow the Health Guidelines of the church conference, the county, and the state. The majority of the congregation has returned in person over the past 20+ weeks. Musicians Sue Bellotti and Charli Gaddy provide preludes, postludes, the doxology, and the hymns faithfully every Sunday. We appreciate their musical talents! Thank you to the Stewards: Jeannie Reeves, Jean Kees, Loi Hittle, and Sylvia Spangler for all they do before, during, and after worship to support the service. We appreciate everything you do!

To the Church Council ~ I "tip my hat" to all for your hard work and support during this unprecedented time of trying new ideas, flexibility, making adjustments, and experimenting. We found ways to continue meaningful, loving, and uplifting worship services while supporting the needs of the congregation as well. To Becky Schowalter and Delbert Koehn ~ kudos for your work to keep the building sparkling clean and the lawn looking nice. To Becky Cornett, your beautiful flower arrangements which grace the altar, add so much! Thank you! Come when you can to church. Call if you need support!

Love and blessings ~ Pastor Anne

Thanksgiving Dinner

Collbran Congregational Church has decided to move forward on November 14, 2020 with the traditional Turkey Dinner. This year it will be served as a take-out dinner only. The menu will be as follows:

Roast Turkey and Dressing

Sweet Potatoes

Relish and Cranberry Sauce

Your choice of Pumpkin, Apple, or Pecan Pie

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Green beans

Rolls and Butter

There will be a choice of gluten free rolls, dressing, and pies for anyone needing that option.

The cost of the meal will remain the same as it has been for several years: \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12 years.

Meals can be picked up at the Congregational Church on November 14, 2020 between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. Meals will be paid for at the time of pick-up. Please have cash or check. We are unable to accept credit cards.

In these times when all of the usual events and festivities are being cancelled by the COVID-19 we look forward to sharing this big of tradition with our friends and families of the valley.

Please reserve your meals by calling Julia Cox, (970) 487-3750; Sue Belotti (970) 487-3474; or the Congregational Church, (970) 487-3349. Leave a message if needed.



Winter Coat Giveaway



Once again, warm winter coats, snow pants, mittens, hats, and some boots will be displayed at Collbran Supply the first week of November as the weather turns cold. Generous donations of very nice coats in all sizes and colors have come in to the Congregational Church for this coat rack. Many children's coats and snow pants are also available.

PLEASE STOP BY AND PICK UP WARM OUTER WEAR FOR THIS WINTER. DON'T BE COLD THIS WINTER!!

Christmas Eve Service

4:00 PM and 6:00 PM, December 24, 2020

Discussion has taken place on how to safely try to keep the tradition of Christmas Eve Service open this year.

We have decided to hold an early service for families at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020. It will be necessary to reserve your space ahead of time. We encourage families who live together to share a pew. The pews seat 5-6 family members. Everyone over 8 years old will be asked to wear a mask.



Individuals who would like to attend Christmas Eve Service and are not directly affiliated with the families are encouraged to reserve seating at the 6:00 PM service. There is seating for approximately 25 persons with social distancing recommendations. Everyone over 8 years old will be asked to wear a mask.

The services will last 40 to 45 minutes.

Treasurer's Report



Income 2020

August	\$2061.00
September	\$2952.05
August 2020 offering	\$2061.00.
August 2019 offering	\$2575.34

Expense 2020

August	\$2715.57
September	\$7176.32
September 2020 offering	\$2738.81.
September 2019 offering	\$3402.00

As you can see the numbers are down slightly, but I find it truly a blessing to know that the support for this church stays strong. We are seeing lower utilities from having no extra activities in the building. We keep cutting corners wherever we can find one to trim.

I want to thank each and every one of you who support this church with your weekly or monthly donations.

Be safe and Stay Home, Sue Bellotti, Treasurer

Scholarships Available

Remember there are scholarships available to any graduate of Plateau Valley School who is attending a college, university, or trade school full time in 2020.

Go online to Western Colorado Community Foundation, www.wc-cf.org, and look for the Plateau Valley Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00 and can only be received once.

The website will direct you to the list of documents you will need to submit to Western Colorado Community Foundation for the application.

This scholarship is available to any graduate of Plateau Valley School, not just graduates of 2020. If you have received the Plateau Valley Scholarship Fund before you are not eligible.

This scholarship fund was created following a very generous donation by a former graduate of PVHS. The funds are managed by the Western Colorado Community Foundation.



How to Decorate the Christmas Tree

This is not a request for directions on whether the lights go on ahead of the tinsel, but how do we safely decorate the tree in the sanctuary this year?

It has been suggested that we try to do this in shifts. The tree will be brought up from the basement and assembled on Friday, November 27. We will try to have it put together and fluffed ready for decorating.

Decorating the tree will take place on Saturday, November 28th between 10:00 AM and Noon. We ask that 8-10 adults volunteer to help with the tree.

Masks will be required and social distancing will have to take place.

We can do this. We can make this work. We are good at taking care of each other.

Trustees' Report October 2020

The Trustees have been busy. There have been meetings with an architect to plan renovations in the basement for a more handicap accessible bathroom. There will be some new doors, walls moved, and general upgrades to make this happen.

The lawns have been well cared for by Delbert Koehn and our housekeeper, Becky Schowalter, keeps the building clean. We appreciate all these two do for the church.

The sprinkler system has been blown out and readied for winter.

The dirt pile behind the kitchen has been spread out and the pit liner lain down to try to prevent water from settling against the basement wall. With no rain we have not had a trial run to see if we are making headway at keeping water from running from the large roof of the gym down along the foundation.

There will be some upgrades in the main floor with window shades for the nursery and pastor's office as well as a more usable desk in the pastor's office.



Cleaning cabinets and bookshelves has been taking place when time is available. The Salvation Army in Grand Junction was happy to accept four boxes of Bibles that had accumulated on the office shelves and in the classrooms. There is an interesting collection of older hymnals we kept, just for reference and pleasure. The craft cabinets have been sorted and much of the supplies gathered into totes to use with Vacation Bible School.

The big project of cleaning and rearranging the room in the basement known as the Old Library or, more currently, the 4-H Room, will begin to take place this week. We hope to be able to eliminate the clutter and overcrowding that has happened over the years. Cattlewomen, Lions Club, and the 4-H have used this room for storage for many years. The 4-H also holds some meetings and classes in this space.

A list has been created and a local contractor will be contacted to begin making the repairs around the building. As everyone knows a building big or small requires regular maintenance. Especially when it is 117 years old.

A video surveillance system has been installed both inside and outside of the building. After a couple of rather dangerous incidences this past summer we felt it was time to come into the tech age. We are having problems with bikes, skateboards, and scooters being ridden in the park and causing damage to the basement door at the ramp. We hope to get signage up again to let everyone know these rules.

CDOT has built new ADA ramps onto the sidewalk from High Street. We do appreciate this upgrade. The broken cement and rough surface that was replaced was a concern. Thank you, CDOT for making this possible.

The stained glass window repairs and maintenance has been set for December 2020. If the weather or company work schedule does not work out the project will be pushed out to the spring of 2021.

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