

Pastor Anne's Message, May 2023

Happy Mother's Day and Happy "Mothering Day" too, as so many of us have mothered others along life's path. Be joyful, be thankful, and be full of the Spirit as we honor, remember, and celebrate our Mothers in May!

Does your mother, grandmother, aunt, or other special person you love carry a purse or a backpack? Think about what she carries in that purse or backpack. Let's take a look at some of the very basic items many Mothers carry with them and why.

- ♥ A coin purse or wallet: She must always be prepared for a "money" emergency. There will be a need for money on many days.
- ♥ A small flashlight: It is not unusual for the electricity to go off and leave you in the dark. Sometimes you need a flashlight when it gets dark at night as well. God and Jesus are your Light; but a flashlight can come in handy too.
- ♥ Tissues: These are always handy for a runny nose or to wipe away a tear.
- ♥ Goldfish Crackers or Gum: Moms find it handy to have a snack or sweet treat to help children get through the day.
- ♥ A comb or brush: Moms like to make sure we start out looking our best when we go out into the world.
- ♥ A Bible: Moms often keep a small Bible in their purse or backpack. It is just good to have one with you!
- ♥ Cell Phone: Moms want to be in close touch with family and friends throughout the day and all the time! We all need help now and then and a cell phone comes in handy.

Mothers are thinking about their children all day, every day. God has given us mothers (and fathers) to be parents just as God is a parent to all of us ~ children and adults.

When a Mother is not able to live as long as we would like, God provides other special women to take care of and support her children. No one can be just the same as your Mom was; but we are grateful for those mothering women who come into our lives with love for us!

My sisters Karen, Valerie, and I were ages 8, 11, and 12 when our mother became sick with cancer. She gave us as much as she could, and when she died, we realized that she would always be with us. She had taught us so much! Our Dad did the absolute best that he could to raise us, and we three girls have had wonderful mothering friends throughout our lives.

Mother's Day is also the "Fellowship of the Christian Home." We praise God for the love of the special women in our lives. I thank God for you every day; especially in the month of May when we remember our mothers and the fellowship of the Christian home.

With love and hugs,

Pastor Anne



Senior Tea

The Women's Fellowship of the Collbran Congregational Church UCC, has provided a "Tea" for graduating seniors of Plateau Valley High School for an unknown number of years. The earliest confirmation of a Senior Tea was 1940. We imagine any event held over 80 years can be called a tradition. The Senior Tea is a celebration of the year's seniors. This year's tea is Tuesday, May 9. All students living in the Plateau Valley who are receiving their high school diplomas this school year are invited to attend with a guest.

Lita Hill attended her Senior Tea in 1964 with her mother, Florence Freeman, an elementary teacher whom many of us had as a 4th grade teacher. Lita also remembers Lou Hill, Allen's grandmother, reminiscing about attending the Senior Tea with her son, Clifford Hill in the spring of 1942. Lita attended the Senior Tea with her sons, Kent, Bert, and Jay. She recalls how each son was hesitant to attend the Senior Tea until they got there and saw that it was, truly, a party to honor the graduates. The food was delicious, plentiful and beautifully served. There was entertainment, as well.

Tom Melendy remembered that his mother, Ruth, attended the Senior tea with him in 1963. Velma Leishman sang a song (he can't remember what song it was), and he remembers that during the song, Frank Ridenour started to cry, and "that started all of us bawling". He also remembers that Mattie Mitchell knew that he liked deviled eggs, and that is what she gave him for a graduation present.

Cindy Price remembers "I graduated in 1964 and remember my mother attending with me. I do think my grandmothers were both invited, but can't remember if either or both attended. I wore a white fitted dress that Mom and I made, and my grandmother, Mary Ellen Lyons painted pretty flowers like a necklace on the bodice of the dress. I felt pretty special, and may still have that dress in a box somewhere. Naomi and I have both pondered whether Bill Morse's mom whistled a song at the Tea. She may have, or may have not, but we both remember her gift of whistling beautifully for large groups - especially her deep baritone whistle of "Old Man River". I can still hear that in my mind. This was the ONLY time I had the experience of attending a fancy "tea" with china dishes and cups, plenty of dainty cookies and sweets and pretty shaped delicious sandwiches. We all looked forward to the experience of the "one of a kind and one opportunity only" Senior Tea. Today, I am proud that the tradition of providing a Senior Tea for the graduating high school seniors continues through many generations in Plateau Valley.



Ethel (Hawkins) Click often spoke of her Senior Tea the year she graduated. 1941 was early in WWII and some of the senior boys were already enlisted and left very soon after graduation. Her daughters, Evonne Stites and DeDe Walz, attended their Senior Teas as well as brothers Bill Clark and Dale Click. Ethel's grandchildren have attended in more recent years. Often three or four generations of a family are in attendance at a Tea.

Josie Barnes from 1994 remembers mingling at the table of tea cakes, sitting enjoying conversation with our precious community, or googling over the magnificent magician's tricks are all fond memories of my 1994 Senior Tea. Remembering the presence of my Dad and the people I love surrounding me still today brings joy to my heart.

Collbran Congregational Church is looking forward to seeing all the 2023 Seniors at this year's Senior Tea on May 9.

Stewardship Letter

Hello Friends, Families, and Neighbors,

The Collbran Congregational Church community building is your center for events, celebrations, family activities, and meetings. We love partnering with you to serve our community.

We appreciate your past support and donations which have helped us maintain and make improvements to the community building.

The gymnasium is leased for dance, gymnastics, tumbling classes, and yoga.

The dining room and meeting room are available for family events and group meetings. Currently, valley groups such as PV Extreme 4-H Club, Collbran Lions Club, PV Cattlewomen, Friends of the Library, and Horizon Club are a few of the local groups who use the building. Farmers Market and the Collbran Branch Library have met regularly in Mothers Park during the summer. The playground equipment is enjoyed by children and families who use the park for parties and picnics.



The Fellowship room adjacent to the sanctuary is suitable to better accommodate smaller group meetings. The basement now has a modern handicapped accessible restroom with a baby changing station.

We are requesting your financial support for the continued maintenance of this historic building. Donations may be mailed to Collbran Congregational Church UCC, PO Box 160, Collbran, CO 81624.

Please visit our website: collbrancongregationalchurch.org for information about our services and upcoming activities.

We ask for your prayers as we continue our community outreach and mission. Thank you for your support and God Bless!

Collbran Congregational Church, UCC
Stewardship Committee

Moderator Report

This is a busy time of year for our church. Graduation is just around the corner. With that, comes the Senior Tea on May 9 to celebrate the graduates. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 21 through 23. This Stellar VBS looks like it will be an exciting time for the kids to Shine Jesus' Light. Volunteers will be helpful for these events. Please let us know if you are willing to help and how you would like to help.

A group of us had fun putting together the play "The Vision." We hope you enjoyed the play.

This community of faith is a true community that looks out for one another and shares our joys and concerns. I am very thankful to be a part of this community.

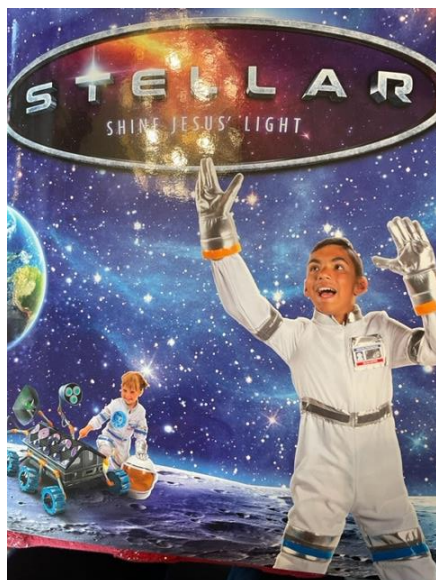
Tilda Evans, Moderator

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

MAY 2023

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Stellar Vacation Bible School June 21, 22, 23, 2023

Collbran Congregational Church
9:00 am to noon
Children 4 to 11 are invited to attend.
Contact Pastor Anne, (970) 433-3385,
for more information.