

Pastor Anne's Message, November 2024

"It Only Takes a Spark!"

Reading from 2 Timothy 1:1-14, we get the great lineage of a faith passed down from “your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice” to Timothy. The faith of the matriarchs is praised. It is a gift from one generation to the next, a family inheritance worth preserving. However, our families don't always pass down the faith. Part of the genius, though, of Christianity is that we are part of this crazy, unwieldy, global, cross-generational community [not by lineage or ethnicity or nation] but by this unique affiliation in faith. Faith is a gift, not something to be earned. It may be a gift from your family, from a friend, or a church. But wherever faith comes from, it comes not from us, but from our contact with one another. We do not practice Christianity in isolation away from the mess and gift of human relationships. We are bound together in faith. Paul is building a new set of family relations. Paul is a sort of spiritual Godparent to Timothy, bound not by blood or family lines, but by faith. The childless Paul claims Timothy as his “beloved child.” For those among us whose families did not, or could not reflect the parental love of God, these new bonds created are indeed good news!

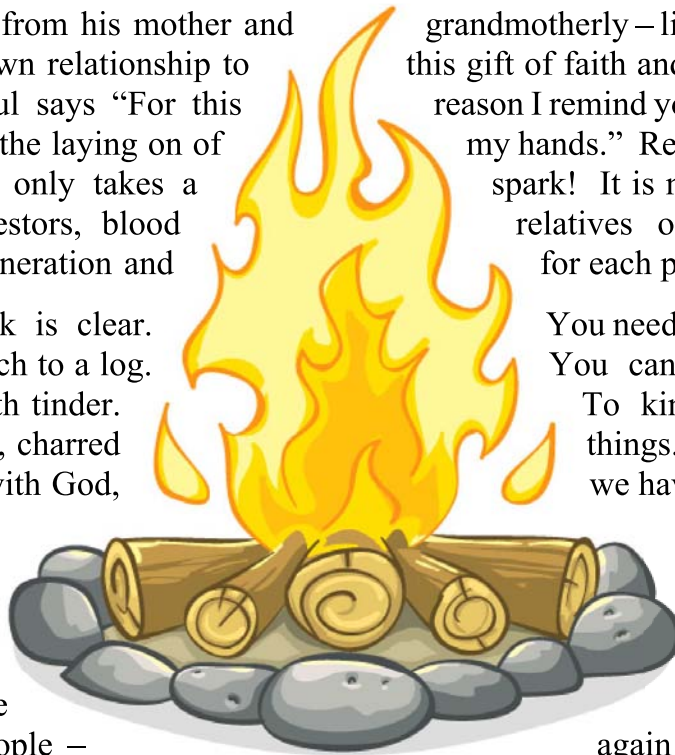
Timothy doesn't get faith from his mother and down. Timothy has his own relationship to this fire. In verse 6, Paul says “For this that is within you through the laying on of within you. You see, it only takes a passed on from our ancestors, blood rekindled anew in each generation and

grandmotherly – like a set of silverware passed this gift of faith and his own obligation to tend reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God my hands.” Rekindle the gift of God that is spark! It is not enough to have the faith relatives or not. Faith has to be for each person.

The Girl Scout guidebook is clear. cannot simply strike a match to a log. logs, but instead begin with tinder. broken things, dead things, charred rekindle our relationship with God, of our lives.

God doesn't want to burning brightly: but kindling, our brokenness. God is not working with the individual, but broken people –

brokenness, in our tinder and sparks of our lives, this is what God wants us to use to fuel the fire of faith. The life of faith is a constant process of kindling and rekindling the fire. The life of faith is not a Duraflame log all prepackaged and contained. The life of faith is not a 12 hour “video loop” of the Yule Log. The life of faith blazes and dies back to embers, leaving ashes that can still give off enough heat, to light the kindling anew. It is a constant process of gathering up the brokenness of our lives, our imperfections, and asking the Holy Spirit to ignite us again. Friends – there is still heat in these embers. A rekindled fire is possible, if we bring the tinder of our lives before God. Thank God!! – It only takes a spark! May this be so, for each one of us.



You need kindling to start a fire. You You cannot start with the biggest To kindle a fire, we gather up things. It only takes a spark. To we have to show God the kindling

work with our big logs with our tinder, our Throughout Scripture, polished and complete again and again. Here, in our

Blessings to you in this season of abundance and thanksgiving! Pastor Anne

Trustees Report

The Trustees are continuing to provide upkeep for the church and community building. There is always the random lightbulb that needs replaced and winterizing to prepare the yard and building for cold weather.

The sprinklers were turned off this past week and Tom Bieser came by and took care of blowing out the lines. We will be removing snow from the walks before we know it.

The gate is in on the north patio with hopes of being able to push the snow farther away from the building.

The new sliding doors in the basement are a great addition. They are much lighter and easier to move.

We are very appreciative of Mike's time in getting some of these much needed upgrades and repairs done.

WANTED – BUILDING CUSTODIAN



The Church is looking for a new custodian. If you would like to apply please contact Sue Bellotti 970-487-3474 for a tour of the building and job description. It will be necessary to submit a proposal which will be presented at the November Church Council meeting on November 11, 2024. Two hours a week will be needed for basic maintenance. Please describe a schedule which will work for you. This is a contract position. It will be necessary for applicants to provide proof of private insurance. Please post your requested hourly or weekly pay in your proposal.

Trustees Sue Bellotti, Julia Cox, Tilda Evans, and Mike Loftus.

Annual Meeting 2025

The time is here to start creating year end reports for the Annual Meeting Report booklet. The Annual Meeting is usually held the last Sunday of January. Reports are due by January 13, 2025. The Council will set the meeting date on at the regular Council meeting on November 11, 2024.

The list of Council Members needing to submit a report is as follows:

Clerk
Pastor
Moderator
Treasurer
Stewardship
Stewards
Trustee

Christian Education
Music Director
Women's Fellowship
Pastor/Parish Relations Committee
Memorial Committee
Nominating Committee
Safety Committee

If anyone has any questions about what information your report needs to contain please contact Tilda, Julia, or Sue, and we can share reports from earlier years with you.

The Annual Meeting begins with a potluck lunch in the dining room followed by the meeting.

The Nomination Committee will be asking for volunteers for openings available when Council checks with current officers who might be ready to step back.

An active cooperative Council is necessary for our church to continue to grow and move forward.

Women's Fellowship Report

November is a busy month for Women's Fellowship as we are preparing for the Annual Turkey Dinner on November 16, 2024. Prep work will be November 15, 2024 from 9-12 noon.

In the early years of your church, the community building was built as an addition to the sanctuary to provide a large space for the community and school to hold events, dinners, and basketball games.

The offices and classroom created space for Sunday school, indoor bathrooms, a pastor's office and additional meeting and seating room just off the sanctuary.

Basketball games in the gymnasium were a big draw for the locals supporting the teams from the town and high school.

In October, a Harvest Festival was held in the community building. The gym and the dining room were open for women to display their summer canning, baked goods, and sewing projects. Produce from fall gardens were judged for size and appearance. After judging, the items were sold with the funds going to support the community building.

A dinner was prepared in the kitchen on the giant wood burning range that remained as the cooking and main heat source for the dining room until after 1995. Cooking was done by the local women, and a meal served at the end of the day.

Today the Turkey Dinner remains the main source of income for Women's Fellowship. Support for the building and necessary improvements, funeral luncheons for grieving families in the valley, and support for church programs are all possible with the income from the meal.

Women's Fellowship wants to give a special thank you to Marigold Market for generously providing the ButterBall turkeys for the dinner. Rosa's support is greatly appreciated.

Please call ahead to reserve meals. The dinner will be served as Take-Out only.

Meals can be reserved by calling Sue Bellotti 970-487-3474 or Julia Cox 970-487-3750. Please leave a message if necessary with your name and phone number and the numbers of meals you are ordering. Almond toffee orders can be placed at the same time. Gluten-free meals will be available.

Payment is due when the meals and candy are picked up November 16 between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM in the church dining room at 2003 High Street, Collbran, CO.

Suzanne Bellotti

Women's Fellowship President

Advent Season Calendar

November 24: Decorate Sanctuary and Soup Lunch, 11:00 – 1:00

December 1: First Sunday of Advent

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24: Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service, 7:00 pm



Almond Toffee

\$15.00/half pound



Order by calling

Cindy Price 970-712-6647

Sue Bellotti 970-487-3474

Please leave message if necessary

**Toffee will be ready for pick-up at the
take-out turkey dinner - Nov. 16, 2024**

In the Congregational Church Dining Room

Order toffee with your dinner order

(Can be ordered separately)

For a child has been born for us...



**...And he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)**

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

November 2024

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TAKE OUT ONLY
ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

**Fundraiser for Women's Fellowship and Collbran Congregational Church
2003 High Street in Church Dining Room**

November 16, 2024, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

\$15.00 per adult/children over 12 yrs.

\$10.00 children 10 yrs. and under

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

order by calling

Julia 970-487-3750 or Sue Bellotti 970-487-3474

Please leave message, if necessary, with name, phone #, and dinner #



Payment is due when picked up
GLUTEN FREE OPTION
Local delivery available if needed
TAKE OUT ONLY



