

Pastor Anne's Message, March 2025

Christians sometimes treat Lent as an opportunity to become better persons, a time to give something up or take on a new practice. And if Lent encourages you toward a self-improvement project, go for it! It's always good to set goals, to learn, to reach out, and move forward with purpose in our lives.

Yet, what if THIS year, your hopes were greater than usual; your prayers were more daring and direct? What if this year you figuratively "gave yourself up" = "you were more open to God's word and grace, more vulnerable and ready to serve in ways small and not so small?" What if this Lent, you invited God and Jesus to speak to 'not so much your behaviors;' rather, that God and Jesus would 'speak to your heart?'

And what if, in that conversation, you discovered that God wants you to be enraptured and to be "lost"? Lost in the beauty of God's mercy, God's justice, God's passions. Lost, as a great hymn says, "in wonder, love, and praise."

For forty days in a hard wilderness, Jesus had his own heart refined and enraptured ~ His heart filled with incredible joy. And this would mean that you too have "God" on your lips? God alone. Heart. Mind. Soul. Strength.

However, you choose to approach Lent; and, however, you decide to embrace the 40 Day Season of Lent ~ from Ash Wednesday to Easter, may it be actions and practices that mean the most to you. Whether it is study time, time in nature, time with loved ones and friends, or time alone ~ may the season of Lent inform your heart and soul to welcome Holy Week:



Palm Sunday, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and the incredible joy 'On the Third Day' ~ Easter Morning!

May you be blessed in the season of Lent. We welcome you to worship with us every Sunday, at 10:00 am. Lean into Lent! Amen!

Peace and blessings to you,

Pastor Anne

(Adapted from Mary Luti, The Still Speaking Writers Group, February 2020.)

Women's Fellowship

Spring is just around the corner and Women's Fellowship is preparing for the Senior Tea. Graduates of Plateau Valley School and Grand Mesa High School will be honored at the Tea on April 29, 2025. The Tea is served in the church dining room and entertainment will, again, be provided by close-up, table magician, Dave Wallin. Seniors and their parents will receive invitations prior to the event.

This event is a longstanding tradition for the Congregational Church, having begun before World War II. Several generations of students, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents have celebrated high school graduation by attending the Tea.

The church and community women prepare wonderful treats for the table. It is a sight to behold and a wonder to enjoy.

We look forward to seeing the graduates, their parents, and the staff for the tea.

April 29, 2025

4:15 PM to 6:00 PM

Collbran Congregational Church UCC Dining Room

Clara Mae Ward's long life was celebrated on Sunday, February 23, 2025, with a beautiful service and wonderful lunch.

Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who donated desserts and came to help serve and clean up. This community is the best when it comes to supporting our group and provide a comforting meal for the families and guests.

Sue Bellotti, President

Easter Week Celebrations

Palm Sunday Service, April 13, 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal, April 17, 5:30 pm

Easter Service, April 20, 10:00 am

Trustees Report

At the Church Council meeting in February, the Trustees presented possible projects for 2025.

First, there is a definite need to replace the heat source in the dining room with more efficient and MUCH QUIETER heating units. That is being investigated.

Second, we are working toward getting the church building washed. It is necessary to clean the cobwebs, bird poo, and road dust from the siding now and then.

Third, design work has begun on a replacement for the sign on the south side of the sanctuary. This one is getting a little shaky.

We have a couple of requests. We are looking for someone with an ATV with a plow blade to work on moving snow on the north side of the building in Mother's Park. We would need to look at the project with the operator and discuss possible methods and outcome.

We need a replacement monitor for the security system. We are having problems with the monitor that came with the system. This needs to be a smaller monitor, possibly 15" to 17". If you have one sitting around that you would like to donate it would be greatly appreciated.

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

Christian Education

It is time again for the Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser. The women of the church will be preparing the Take-Out Only dinner on March 20th and serving on March 21st. Please look for posters and notices and let your friends know. We want to thank you all for the great support you provide by enjoying the Lasagna Dinner.

Remember we serve a vegetable lasagna for those avoiding gluten. Just mention you would like gluten-free when you call in for your Take-Out Order.

Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for June 18, 19, and 20th from 9 am to Noon. Friday will close with the program and picnic lunch. Mark your calendars.



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

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Collbran Congregational Church is having a
Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser
for Vacation Bible School
March 21, 2025
4:30 to 6:00 pm

\$15.00 per meal or
\$50.00 per family of 4 or more

Take Out Only

Serving fresh homemade lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert. Gluten free lasagna, gluten free bread, and dessert are available.

Call (970) 487-3474 or (970) 208-3902
to place an order.

Pick up at Collbran Congregational Church Dining Room.