

# Pastor Anne's Message, February 2026

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

Happily, we greet February with hope for some long-awaited moisture in Plateau Valley and the Grand Valley as well! Valentine's Day is a time to remember special people in your lives and even surprise those who may not expect a hug or wish from you. Celebrate love, friendship, and family!

In the church calendar, the season of Lent is the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. If you have not had the opportunity to observe Lent, take advantage of this time to draw closer to God through worship, Bible reading, devotional readings, meditation, and prayer. Here is a brief devotion for the beginning of Lent. The reading is John 13:3-17. (Jesus washes the feet of his disciples.) Jesus knew his disciples very well and he loved them deeply. If you are a child of God, what do you know about yourself? Whom has God given you to love? Jesus' head and heart were both engaged in what he did next. He got up, took on the appearance and role of a servant, and washed the disciples' feet. How may we serve the people God has put into our lives? What does the Spirit need to do, in your head and in your heart, to bring you to the place where you are willing and able to serve? Pray: Ask God to give you his perspective and his love. Amen

The Winter Olympics will be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. I enjoy watching the athletes and the demonstration of incredible human spirit, determination, and talent. May the purpose and presence of peace and a coming together of nations under the Olympic Flag, add light and lift to your February 6 – 22, 2026, and beyond!

Peace be with each and every one of you and those you love!

Blessings to all!

Pastor Anne Djokic

## Scenes from Advent



Barb and Dave Birtch



Verlene and Frank Dix and Ceola McDonough



The Weirich Family



The Klingler Family



The Yanez Family

# Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Meeting for the church was held Sunday January 25, 2026. The Potluck lunch was served in the dining room ,and the meeting was held at noon in the sanctuary.

Moderator Julia Cox led the meeting. We have found it to be very helpful to have the Annual Reports printed and hand them out a week ahead of the meeting so that everyone can read them ahead of time, and there is time for questions to be formulated or direct contacts made in order to have a better understanding or resolve questions for specific Chairpersons. Any requests for specific answers to any questions can be added to the agenda, if desired.

If anyone who did not receive a hard copy or via internet to their email would like a copy to read, please contact Pastor Anne or Sue Bellotti and we will gladly get one to you. It is easiest to send via email but if that does not work for you, please call the church at 970-487-3349 and leave your name and mailing address.

The Council wants to thank everyone that attended the lunch and the meeting. Your participation keeps our church moving forward.

We have an increase in membership for 2025.

We have had some losses of dear friends, as well.

We have renewed interest in some attending church regularly wishing to become members. This is an exciting time for our church.

The addition of small children with their parents is always a joy.

We look forward to a busy year for 2026 and look forward to seeing you in church!

Sue Bellotti



## Christian Education Committee

It is, once again, time for the Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser for Christian Education. The date has been set for March 20th. Thursday, March 19 will be a day to prep for the dinner.

The dinner will be served as Take-Out and reservations can be made by calling Sue Bellotti, 970-208-3902, or Julia Cox, 970-487-3750. The cost is \$15.00 per meal and will include freshly made lasagna, tossed green salad, French bread, and homemade cake for dessert. There is a gluten free lasagna available if requested.

Meals can be picked up Friday, March 20, between 5:00 pm and 6:30pm. Payment is to be made upon picking up your dinners.

We appreciate your support for the Congregational Church programs.

Christian Education Committee

# TRUSTEES REPORT

The new furnaces have been installed in the dining room. Of course, the first day we try them out was the coldest day of the winter, and we were all questioning how well they were working until we had to run to the car for something upon returning the room felt wonderfully warm. We will keep checking on their efficiency. Thanks to Mike for the work done around the building.

The new sealant was applied to the east side of the foundation between the pastor's office and the gym entrance in an effort to dry up the moisture that is affecting the room known as the 4-H room or Old Library, depending on your age. We will keep checking, and when we believe we have solved the moisture issue, we will let those groups who are using the room for meetings or storage know so the room can be cleared, and the church can proceed with a remodel or restoration in that space. Please don't panic about moving, but we ask that those affected start making plans for off-site storage during the remodel.

The ice is back on the east sidewalk. Please watch for the orange cones and any build-up of ice. We will try to keep the sidewalks clear and salted. It is important that you let someone know if you see something that may be a danger and appears unattended.

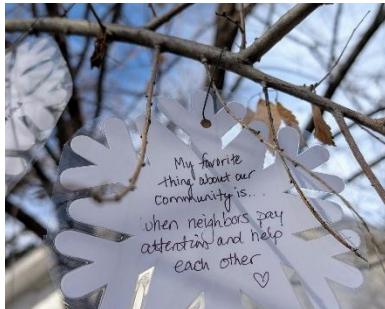
The gym is seeing new use for youth basketball practice 2-3 afternoons a week. If you are interested in using the gym for sports practice such as volleyball or basketball, exercise classes, or other indoor activities, please contact Julia Cox, 970-487-3750, or Sue Bellotti, 970-208-3902, to schedule. We try to keep the cost at a minimum to encourage valley and community use of the facilities.

The Trustees will meet in February to discuss building repairs or upgrades to consider for 2026. If you see something you feel we should discuss, please let one of us know.

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

## My Favorite Thing About Our Community Is...

The Collbran Library frequently uses the Mother's Park for children's events. This one was quite special.



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

## February 2026

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Collbran Congregational Church is having a  
Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser  
for Vacation Bible School

March 20, 2026  
5:00 to 6:30 pm

\$15.00 per meal

**Take Out Only**

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

Call (970) 487-3750 or (970) 208-3902  
to place an order.

Pick up at Collbran Congregational Church Dining Room.