

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

AUGUST 2020

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Editors: Tilda Evans and Sue Bellotti

**Beginning
September 13, 2020**

**Worship starts at
11:00 am**

You are welcome here.



Pastor Anne's Message

Dear Congregation and Friends of Collbran Congregational Church!

Welcome August! We have “stayed the course” and carefully re-opened our church sanctuary for in-person gathering and worship, open since Sunday, June 7. I appreciate our continued connections, communications, emails, phone calls, texts, and those who have been able to return to worship in person. When you feel it is safe for you to return, you are certainly welcome! Until then, know that I miss you very much and pray for each one of you. Stay safe and worship at home.

I have a story to share about my good friend Barb. Barb and I taught together at Clifton Elementary School and she retired from teaching too. This spring, Barb hung a basket of petunias by her front door. The flower pot was filled with soil and the purple petunias were so pretty. One morning, Barb noticed that a mourning dove had built a shallow nest right on top of the purple petunias! I asked her, “What are you going to do Barb about this mother bird in your flowers?” Barb answered, “I have other flowers, Anne; so, I am going to let this mom bird have the hanging pot for her eggs and baby birds!” Good deal!! The mother bird sat and sat and sat on the “nest”. We're not sure how long it was until two little baby birds hatched and started to be fed by BOTH the mother bird and the father bird.

The petunias shriveled up and died because they didn't get watered. No matter!! The fun we had watching the two little birds grow and get so large that they filled the pot, was a wonderful experience. New life on top of a dried pot of flowers.

I love it that my friend Barb decided immediately to let nature take its place on her front step. Luckily, I took some pictures of the two birds before they fledged and left the nest.



There are times when we have to let something go in order to let something new grow. We all want our church to be cozy and “as it was” before the Corona Virus Pandemic. YET, here is what I believe, and I think I know! God and Jesus are with us NOW as they always have been. As we adjust and make new changes, as well as add new ways to keep our church family together despite the separation for now, our church has NEVER BEEN CLOSED!! You have worshipped with your families and stayed strong. When you decide to return, we will welcome you!! Did I mention that I MISS YOU SO MUCH? HUGS!! LOVE~

Pastor Anne

This Summer at the Church

Starting in March, we could not meet together as a Congregation, but Pastor Anne found a way to provide each week's services to us via email or regular mail. Since the beginning of June, we have been able to meet together while practicing prevention methods mandated by the governor. We have been praying and singing with masks and distance between us while enjoying the fellowship of being together.

Father's Day

We celebrated the fathers of the congregation on Father's Day. We are so thankful for all that fathers do for us in our lives



Fathers of the Congregation from left: Frank Dix, Jerry Gaddy, Lew Evans, Sveto Djokic

Baptism



Pastor Anne, Frank and Verlene Dix

In July 5, Pastor Anne baptized Verlene Dix. We welcome her to the family of God.

Historian Needed

“In the beginning” has a grandiose sound to it, doesn't it? Well, “in the beginning”, the church had a historian that was appointed right along with the other positions within the Church Council.

As we have moved forward through the years, this position has fallen through the cracks. When someone found a photo or article, they thought worth preserving it was usually tucked in the pages of the nearest album.

Our historical records are in a real jumble, right now. What the church needs is a person with a sense of organization. There are pictures and clippings that need to be labeled, dated, and posted into an album.

This might be more of a group effort but there is a real need for someone to direct the process.

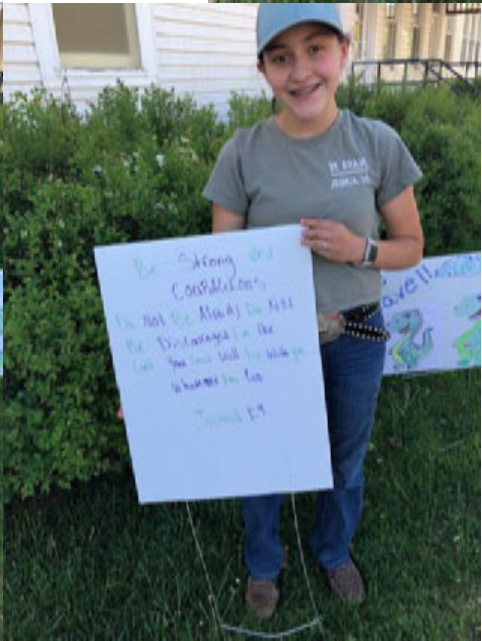
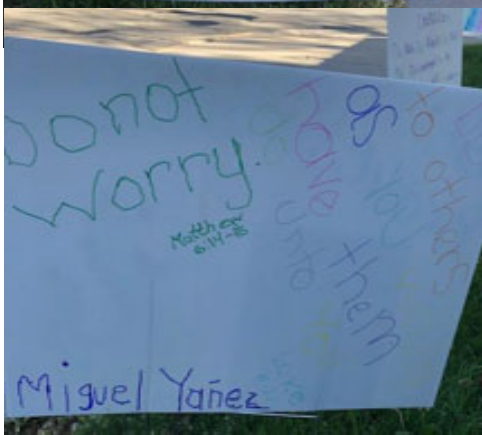
So..., You knew this was coming. Do you want to learn more about the history of the Collbran Congregational Church? Do you love old pictures and newspaper clippings? Do you love to organize and label? Do you have friends who might like to help? WE NEED YOU.

Please contact Julia Cox or Sue Bellotti for questions or if you would like to consider the position.

Encouragement from the Children



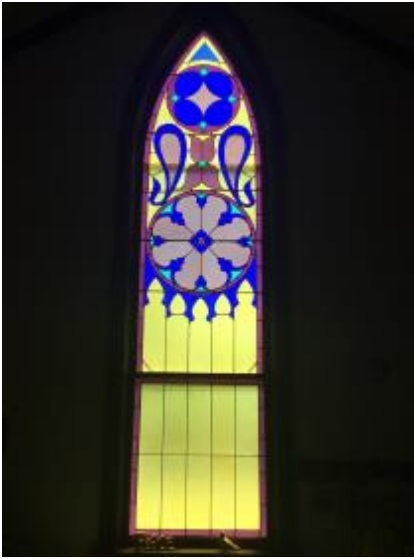
The children of the Congregation created and placed signs outside the church encouraging everyone during these difficult times.



Trustees' Report

It has been another very busy month for the Trustees. Julia Cox, Cindy Price, Sue Bellotti, and Nancy Karlson are your trustees. We were appointed at the annual meeting in January. You may find it quite humorous that all four of us are really unable to fix much of anything that might need repairs around this old building of ours but as you know, women are great at delegation. We know nearly every fix-it man, handyman, general contractor, or lawn care person in the area. Several are called upon now and then to repair everything from little jobs to big jobs.

When a church is blessed with the beautiful stained-glass windows like we have in our sanctuary, it is important to take care of them. It is an expensive proposition at \$9,954.00 but necessary to keep the windows in good shape and protect their longevity. The windows presently have a plexi-glass protective cover on them. After many years, it has become very foggy. The new Klear-Flo Acrylic coating will allow the vibrant colors in these beautiful windows to be seen from the outside once again.



We had the windows evaluated by Willet Hauser Architectural Glass, Inc. in June and after a long discussion about what the windows need at this time, we have contracted with Willet Hauser to do the following:

- Remove the existing protective covering
- Re-cement the stained glass on the exterior surface
- Remove loose paint on outer surface of millwork and apply primer and finish coat
- Install Klear-Flo Protective Covering System to fit the windows
- Cover windows with Klear-Flo protective covering system utilizing ½” acrylic

We are working with the Church Council to decide where money can be drawn from to help pay for this project. If you find it in your heart (and budget) to want to donate toward this expense, please contact Cindy Price.

This past month saw readjustment of the sprinkler system by Bird Roark.

We have contacted Bert Hill to draw up plans for a remodel of the women's bathroom in the basement to possibly give us the ADA bathroom we need in the building. There will be some shifting of doors to create the space we need if we are able to go forward with this plan. If we move forward with these plans, they will be put out for bid.

There will also be some drawing of plans for a service area in the overflow room, upstairs, to accommodate the eventual return to Fellowship after church. This will include a small sink for preparing coffee and tea and making cleanup much easier. New cabinets will provide more storage.

There still needs to be some electrical work done in the kitchen to make the disposal usable. We are not happy with the wall plug-in being its source of on/off power.

CDOT met with Julia Cox and Sue Bellotti proposing an upgrade to the handicap accessible ramp from Spring Street to the sidewalk in front of the church. They have received a grant to upgrade sidewalk ramps that access state highways. ADA accessibility requirements have changed and as our curb and ramp are badly broken this will be a wonderful addition. Work will begin after September.

The cross in the park and possibly the gate posts will get a new coat of paint in the fall.



We hope to get the pit liner barrier, which will move water away from the basement walls and onto the lawn, laid in the back of the kitchen as soon as the weather cools. The pile of dirt that remains back there will disappear. Won't that be amazing?

The Farmers Market is back in the park on the first and third Saturdays through September. Be sure and stop in and visit with these hard-working bakers, knife makers, and gardeners. Remember to bring those knives and scissors that need sharpened. This is the best deal in town.

Please remember to keep us in your prayers as we continue to make decisions needed to keep up the church and church grounds.

Respectfully submitted by C. Price, J. Cox, S. Bellotti and N. Karlson

Memorial Committee Report

The Memorial Committee has agreed with the Church Council to apply current Memorial funds toward the cost of repair and protection of the stained-glass windows. These windows are admired by church and community members and any photographer that catches them with the interior lights on at night, snowing or not.

Please know that you can make donations in memory or in honor of your loved ones any time by sending your contribution to Collbran Congregational Church, UCC, P.O. Box 160, Collbran, CO 81624. Often these donations are received when suggested by the family. Please indicate on the check whose memory is being honored.

You can create a legacy contribution in your will. For brochures, if you are interested, please contact Sue Bellotti. Collbran Congregational Church, UCC.

Respectfully Submitted, C. Price and N. Karlson

Women's Fellowship

Even though the church has been closed to outside visitors, the Women's Fellowship seems to stay busy.

The last meeting was in March, and we are hoping we will be able to meet in September to begin plans for the fall.

This month we will be providing a luncheon for the family of Rose Branson, following her service at Cedarcrest Cemetery on August 8, 2020. The service will be at 10:00AM and the luncheon will be provided in Terrell Park for the family.

Cindy Price graciously has managed the rental of tables and chairs since the retirement of Nancy Karlson. It has been decided that it is time to start replacing some of the tables with new light-weight tables that are now available. Sue Bellotti has started the "great hunt" for the best table at the best price.

A generous donation of coats came in from Jeanne Reeve's daughter from the Meeker Schools. They have been stored in the basement until they will be needed in October for the Winter Coat Drive. We will sort the coats on hand at the September or October meeting to have them ready to go on display at Collbran Supply when the snow flies.

Becky Schowalter added the care and cleaning of the basement to her contract and the floors are clean, the windows shine, and the bathrooms are at the ready.

Julia Cox, Sec/Tres. and Sue Bellotti, Pres.



Treasurer's Report



This report is a little different than others because I have combined the past three months. Not a true quarterly report but a snapshot since the last Mustard Seed.

Income:	\$ 12,311.88
Expense:	\$ 12,415.90
Loss:	\$ 104.02

This was a very good three months. Your generous support for this church makes it possible to pay the pastor, pay the bills, and maintain this building.

As you can see, there was a small loss but with whatever savings I can tuck away I am usually able to cover the difference.

If you would like more information about the financial wellness of our church please contact me and we will meet to discuss concerns or talk over suggestions you might have.

Thank you. Sue Bellotti, Treasurer

Noisy Offering

As you know, the first Sunday of each month introduces the Noisy Offering. You generously give your change and bills to support missions in Collbran, Mesa County, and the nation or world.

After the collection is counted at the end of each month, as treasurer, I send a check with a letter explaining where the funds come from to the recipient. This letter tells them that the congregation supports this mission with pocket change, and the children usually gather the coins and bills. I offer a line of encouragement and thank them for the work they do.

That is all business as usual for me but the best part is when a gracious Thank You is received and some of their mission is shared with our church.

Some are colorful and some more formal but all are hand written notes of appreciation. I had been posting them on the hallway bulletin board but will start posting them on the board in the entry of the church for you to read and enjoy.

This mission was started by Pastor Faye Gallegos when she served as interim pastor for our church. The Noisy Offering is well supported by all of you.

Thank you,

Sue Bellotti, Treasurer



Christian Education

As Fall quickly approaches, Pastor Anne and Sue Bellotti are considering restarting Sunday School for children under the age of 14 years.

As a parent would you consider sending your child?

Sunday School is usually from 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM Sunday morning.

School will be starting, and we will take the protocols they are recommending as possible guidelines for our classes.

Class sizes are generally not large, and there is room to spread out to socially distance. The children will not be asked to wear face masks.

We have a great curriculum that we had purchased to use in our 2020 Vacation Bible School program. When we were unable to have VBS this summer, we thought we might go ahead and present the material through our Sunday School.

Rocky Railroad is the title. A great program to teach God's love and care for each of us with a magnificent Rocky Mountain background for the grand steam engine and amazing wildlife you will recognize.

We are looking forward to returning to a Sunday School program but will strive to do so safely.

If you are interested in having your children participate or if you have concerns or suggestions, please contact Christian Ed. Director, Sue Bellotti at 487-3474 or bellotti4@mns.com or Pastor Anne Djokic at 433-3385.

CE Director Sue Bellotti

Music Program

With our return to church worship service it has become necessary to print song sheets with the words to the hymns in order to avoid handling the hymnals. This is new to the congregation but all seems to be OK.



The laptop that was in use was outdated and we were no longer to get the updates needed to keep it working properly. We purchased a new laptop to use with the audio/visual equipment at the front of the church. Currently we are trying to find the right adapter for the Audio/Visual connection but it has not been as easy as it seems like it should be.

The new computer should provide a much clearer and smoother visual presentation than we have been getting with the other.

You will begin to see more songs with words and music on the screen as we go into the Fall. Please let us know if you are having a problem seeing or hearing the screen. We would love to hear from you about how it is all going.

Music Director – Sue Bellotti