

Pastor Anne's Mustard Seed Greetings  
May 2017

I smiled when I saw the first flower of Spring the other day. A lone crocus had popped its head through the ground and was looking around on a cool, April morning. This little flower had decided to end its long winter's sleep. Perhaps it heard the songs of the birds singing that Spring had arrived and it was time for the world to awaken again. Perhaps the roots of the trees had whispered to it that it was now safe to come out and that their own limbs were already budding.

Whatever the reason, it was a joy to see the little guy soaking up the light and calling out to its fellow flowers to join in the celebration of life once again. We too are a part of that creation, but unlike the flowers in the field, we have the ability to bloom even when the world around us is cold, dark, and harsh. We have the ability to make every day feel like the first day of Spring. May you bloom well then today and always. May you shine your light. May you share your love. May you be truly alive in the glory of God's creation. And may you forever make your Heavenly Father smile. Happy Spring!! Bloom where you are planted.

This is a joyful time in nature as the mountains and valleys come alive with budding and growth. Speaking of budding and growth, if you are interested in joining Collbran Congregational Church, United Church of Christ and/or being baptized please let me know and I will be glad to visit with you and set up either "joining the church" and /or "baptism". Remember always, that wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Springtime Blessings ~  
Pastor Anne

## **TRUSTEES REPORT – May 2017**

Trustees are working on continued plans for sprucing up the Mothers' Park including refurbishing and reinforcing the canopy over the entrance to the Dining Room and removing the tree parts that have grown into the chain link fence on the west end of Mothers' Park. Thank you to Sveto Djokic for supervision and removal of the trees and shrubs in the west park as well as Mothers' Park. It's so refreshing to see the results of the much needed upkeep.

Other items include faucet and leaking pipe repairs on the outside of the church and in the kitchen as well as preparing the sprinkler system for summer.

Watch for a fresh look on the marquee in front of the church and on the west deck at the parsonage.

Submitted by Trustees Cindy Price, Julia Cox, Nancy Karlson, and Sue Bellotti.

## **WOMENS FELLOWSHIP**

Womens Fellowship helped the Stewards prepare and serve the Maundy Thursday Seder meal.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, several women of the church and valley traveled to Grand Junction for a luncheon with the women of the First Congregational UCC. A potluck lunch was served and program presented. Helen Chapman was able to attend as a special guest of Cindy Price. Everyone had a wonderful time.

The Senior Tea was a wonderful success. Thank you to all those who helped setup the dining room, baked and prepared amazing cookies, candies, and sandwiches for the tea table, and those who are always there to cleanup. The Culinary students brought a large tray of very delicious scones to share at the tea.

There were about 75 people in attendance. Mr. Randal and staff and members of the school board were also there, representing the administration the school.

Dave Wallin, again, entertained with his slight-of-hand and table magic. He has provided the entertainment for the past 26 years. Pastor Anne presented each graduate with a Bible as a gift from the group. Thank You's were given by a member of the senior class and from the Job Corp graduates.

The McDaniel's family will hold a memorial service for Velma and the women's group will provide sandwiches, chips, and beverages. Please call Nancy Karlson after May 18<sup>th</sup> if you would like to help provide food or help serve.

A special thanks to Becky Schowalter for the terrific job cleaning the dining room windows. They really sparkle. **Nancy Karlson, Pres.**

## Stewardship Report

Stewardship chairperson, Cyndi Leinberger created the bones of the annual appeal letter. Other members of the board have worked closely with the Cyndi and the Treasurer, Sue Bellotti in preparing the church appeal for supporting the community service provided by the church.

The letter describes the work that has been done and remains to be done in order to keep this old building in good condition.

We're anxious to see a generous response from the church and community.

## Christian Education

Sammi Addison and Julia Murphy received their signed Bibles during the Easter Service. It has been a long held tradition to present graduating third grade Sunday School students with a Bible. The younger children were given Bible story books that can be read to them at home.

Sunday school will continue during the summer. Sunday school will begin at 9am during the summer as church will begin at 10am. Sue Bellotti, Edith Ann Power, and Julia Cox work together to provide lessons and crafts. Please be sure to send any visiting children when family come to the valley this summer. We would love to have them join us.

The older children have begun reading one of the scriptures during church services. Thank you to Pastor Anne for including them.

VBS planning is in the works. One planning meeting was held early in May and the second will be June 4<sup>th</sup>, following church services, at 11am. **CAMP OUT Learn S'more about Jesus** is the program. Vacation Bible School will be June 21, 22,23 from 9am to noon. A children's program will be held during church on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Music Program

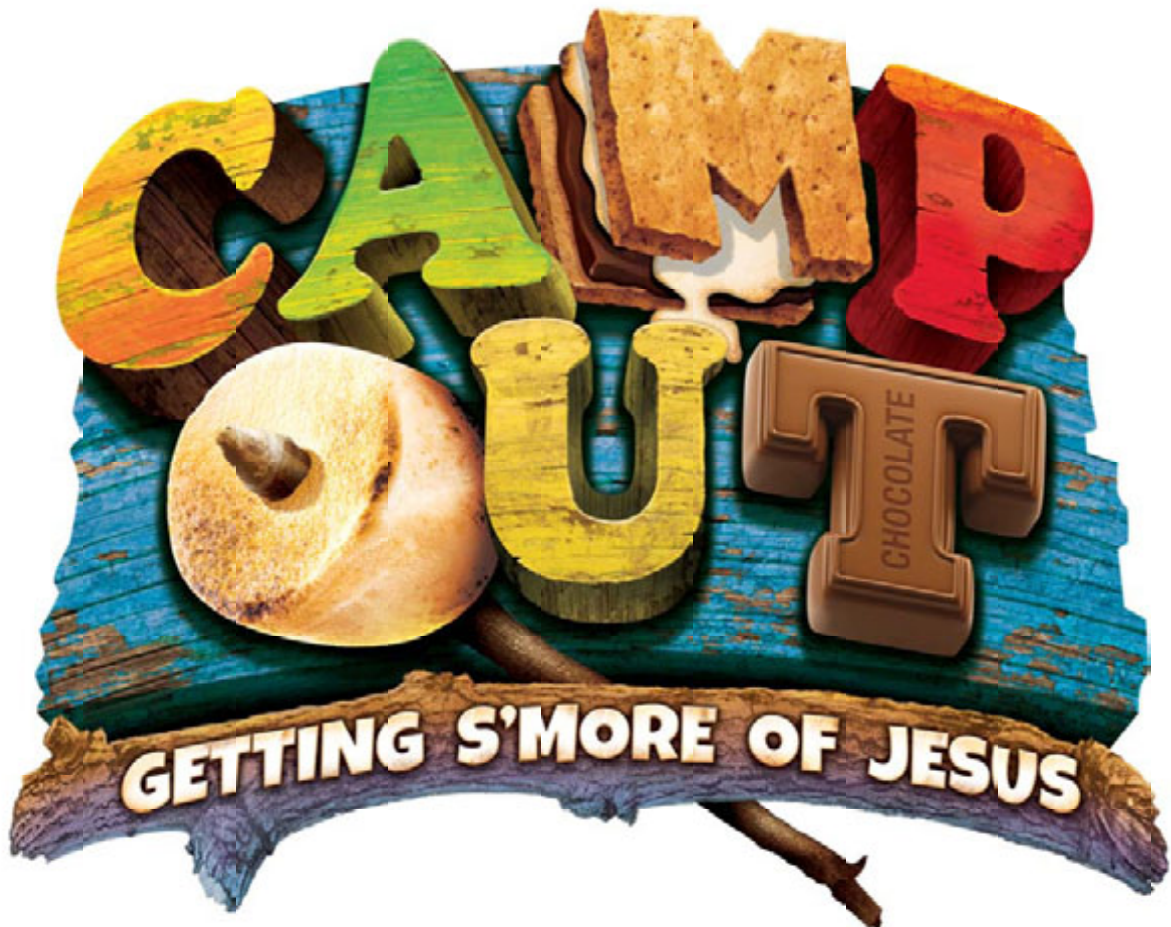
Ann Anderson and Sue Bellotti continue providing music on the piano and organ for services. The children from the Sunday school performed a stick dance to "Were You There" at the Easter service. They often sing during church and at the opening of services. There is no greater joy than to hear their young voices ring out singing songs about the love God has for them.

Thanks to Sammi Addison, for the violin solo, and to Julia Murphy for the piano piece performed as Prelude and Offertory for the Easter service. This is our future.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 21, 22, 23,  
AND 25.**

**AGES 4YRS TO COMPLETION OF 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.**

**CONTACT SUE BELLOTTI [bellotti4@msn.com](mailto:bellotti4@msn.com) or  
487-3474 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP AS A  
TEACHER, OR WITH CRAFTS OR RECREATION.  
PLANNING MEETING JUNE 4 11AM AFTER  
CHURCH**



**HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!**

**SUMMER HOURS FOR CHURCH TO BEGIN  
JUNE 4, 2017. PLEASE ARRIVE FOR  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9AM AND CHURCH  
WILL BEGIN AT 10:00AM.  
DON'T FORGET!!**

**REMEMBER: WHEREVER YOU ARE ON  
LIFE'S JOURNEY. YOU ARE WELCOME  
HERE!**

THE MUSTARD SEED  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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May 2017

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Senior Tea, 2017 Peggy Shiflet, Marsha Encke, Debbie Hamm, Dean Cole, Jeanne Reeves, Sylvia Spangler, Cyndi Leinberger, Sue Bellotti, Clara Mae Ward, and Nancy Karlson



Sammi Addison and Julia Murphy receive their Bibles, Easter Sunday.