

Message from Pastor Anne

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

Happy are we to greet February and celebrate long-awaited moisture in Plateau Valley and the Grand Valley as well! Valentine's Day in an elementary school is always a delight and little surprises and gestures of love and affection brightened my day. Love to you in Christ!

I am pleased to share that we welcomed five new members into our church on Sunday, January 21, 2018. I feel a renewed, positive momentum and vibrancy in our church and invite you to join us for Sunday morning worship whenever you can. Also, please take note of other upcoming activities to enjoy. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

In the church calendar, the season of Lent is the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. If you have never observed Lent, or never enjoyed observing it, 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: 1-5. (Jesus washes the feet of his disciples.) Jesus *knew* his disciples very well and he *loved* them deeply. What else did he know and whom else did he love? 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/or your heart to bring you to the place where you are willing and able to serve? Prayer: Ask God to give you his perspective and his love.

The Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea are in full swing and 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.

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

Blessings to all ~

Pastor Anne Djokic

EASTER WEEK EVENTS

Easter falls on April 1st this year, and no that is not an April Fool's joke. We will be celebrating a meal together on Maundy Thursday, March 29, 2018, at 5:30pm in the dining room. This is a Seder meal with traditional readings. Lamb has traditionally been served with this meal yet at the request of some, *an additional meat choice will be prepared*. Please join us for this traditional meal as we continue with the events of Holy Week.

The church will be open on Good Friday, March 30st from 10AM to Noon for prayer. An Easter Egg hunt for the children will be held in Mother's Park at 10:AM on Easter Sunday. Church service will be at 11:AM.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Annual Meeting of the Collbran Congregational Church was held on January 21, 2018. Anyone interested in an Annual Report can read it on the website, or request one under Contact Us. www.collbrancongregationalchurch.org. If this does not work for you, a printed copy can be mailed to you. Please call Cindy Price, 970-487-3264 to request the copy.

TRUSTEE REPORT February 2018

The foundation repairs are finished at the parsonage and the interior repair work is scheduled to begin. It became obvious that the house needed to be leveled and foundation repairs were overdue. Western Slope Foundation Repair completed the needed adjustments and immediately the front and back doors were able to be opened and closed as easily as they were intended. Most cracks in the walls closed immediately as the adjustments were being made.

970 Construction is the name of the company Council voted to accept.

We are all anxious to see the inside of the building after the damaged sheet rock is repaired and bathroom fixtures are replaced. New floor covering is to be installed, and the walls and ceilings repaired and painted. Doors will be re-hung and repaired as needed.

Other more mundane issues continue and are handled as they arise. Please continue to pray for our church, that we may continue our goal of providing spiritual care to our communities.

Submitted by the Trustees

Julia Cox, Nancy Karlson, Cindy Price, Sue Bellotti

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The children have been busy at Sunday school. We have been studying the early events following the birth of Jesus. The Blessing at the Temple by Simeon and Anna. (Luke 2:22-40)

Much of this section of scripture is historical and refers to Jesus when his parents brought him to the temple as a babe. It was required under the laws of Moses that all male children be presented to the Lord in the temple and offerings made.

At that time though, Simeon, a devout and righteous man was at the temple. He came by direction from the Holy Spirit for he had been told earlier that he should not die before he had seen the Saviour who was to come. He recognised Jesus as the Saviour and blessed him and his parents.

We have studied the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the transformation on the mountain top with Elijah and Moses.

A little time was spent on Sunday the 11th creating Valentines to be presented to members of the congregation who are living in care facilities in Grand Junction. This is one of the children's favourite activities.

We are preparing songs for Palm Sunday and Easter to be shared during church services.

Thanks to Julia Cox for making time to prepare materials for our youngest members. It is greatly appreciated and they do enjoy more flexible classroom.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER.

The annual Lasagne Dinner will be held March 16, 2018 in the dining room from 5:30PM to 7:00 PM. Take-out orders can be called in from 4-6PM at 487-3738. We will be preparing the usual meat and cheese lasagne, a meatless lasagne, or a gluten free vegetable lasagne. The funds raised from this event pay for the Vacation Bible School events scheduled for June 27, 28, and 29, 2018. Watch for posters!!

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Womens Fellowship continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month AT 10AM in the dining room. Elections were held in January. President, Nancy Karlson, Vice President, Clara Ward, Secretary/Treasurer, Julia Cox. These women have served this organization for many years and their service is greatly appreciated.

Their February meeting was held to make plans for preparation and serving the Maundy Thursday meal on March 29th.

Plans were made for the annual luncheon, April 10, 2018, at 12:00PM in the dining room with the women from 1st Congregational Church, UCC, of Grand Junction. This year the GJ women will travel to Collbran for lunch, bringing the program. This is always an enjoyable afternoon and anyone who would like to join us is invited.

The Senior Tea will be held for graduates of Plateau Valley High School and Grand Mesa High School on May 1, 2018 at 4:15PM in the dining room. Magician Dave Wallen will be entertaining with his amazing magic tricks. A magical tea table is prepared by women of the church and valley to celebrate the achievements of our seniors. Please let Nancy Karlson know if you will be providing something for the tea table. Help serving is also needed.

The Food Bank at the Congregational Church is in need of restocking. Donations of canned meals such as soup, chili, tamales, or Raman noodles seem to be used up the quickest. Packaged meals such as mac and cheese, pasta dinners, etc are also needed. Cash donations can be very helpful and all is greatly appreciated by those who use this service.

Each spring the Womens Fellowship makes a generous donation to the Church to help cover the cost of winter heat bills. Thanks you, ladies, for your support. Respectfully, Nancy Karlson, Pres.

MUSIC PROGRAM

I want to thank Annie Anderson for her years as the pianist at the church. I miss her terribly and wish her the best. Annie has been away from the piano for the past two months. Her health is such that she had

been staying with her daughter, Toni, in Palisade before transferring to Genesis Center on 12th Street, formerly Mesa Manor. Please take time to stop in for a visit or drop her a card or letter. She is in room #402.

MONTHLY “NOISY OFFERING”

The Collbran Cong. Church has a “Noisy Offering “ on the first Sunday of each month. Many missions are supported by this pocket change offering. Nearly \$800 was raised in 2017

January – Habitat of Mesa County

February Plateau Valley Robotics

March – Young Life Camperships

April – Vacation Bible School

May – Child and Migrant Workers in Palisade

June – PV Resource Center

July – PV Cancer Fund

August – Come Let’s Dance – an African mission based in Steamboat Springs

September – Project Niger- a Mission in Africa, representative in Palisade

October – Collbran Lions Club

November – Casa Milagro- a mission in Santa Cruz La Laguan, Guatemala for widows and children

December – Church World Mission Blanket Fund – providing disaster victims blankets world-wide.

CHURCH BUILDING AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS

Do you know how busy the Congregational Church can be? There is seldom a day that something is not happening in our building. Here is a list, just off of the top of my head.

Sunday services, Sunday school and the usual Church events

Funerals for church and community members

Weddings for church and community members but also for couples from outside the Valley

Baptisms for the newest members of the church and community

Wedding receptions in the dining room

Baby Showers and family parties celebrating birthdays or other special events.

Grey Gourmet providing a hot meal and conversation for the older community

Plateau Valley 4-H Club holds meetings and classes for clubs from cooking to livestock.

Horizon Club uses the dining room to create amazing cookie houses and trains and for events

Collbran Library uses the park for summer reading program events. They presented the solar system in the gym this past year.

Gymnastics meets 4 times a week to keep the kids in the valley moving and flexible.

Basketball for youth – the Gym provides extra practice space for the junior leagues.

Music Lessons – Held in the sanctuary after school several days a week

The building is available for meetings for small and large groups. The Gym is available for supervised basketball upon request. An adult must be present when youth are playing.

I know this is an incomplete list but I hope it gives you some idea of how and how often this building is used. There is continual maintenance and repairs needed to keep up with the activity. Please remember there are tables and chairs available to rent for outside events. Nancy Karlson is our contact for building use and rentals. 487-3740. You may also email us from the website under Contact Us at www.collbrancongregationalchurch.org.

NEW BANNER!

Cyndi Leinberger saw this banner while attending a Western Association meeting and was impressed with the concepts it presented so she purchased one and donated it to our church. It is on display in the dining room at this time. Thank you, Cyndi.



NEW MEMBERS FOR THE CHURCH

Several people have requested membership into the Collbran Congregational Church, UCC family. On January 21, 2018 five new members were welcomed into our church family. There will be more new members welcomed into the church in the coming weeks. It is exciting to see



our congregation growing. **WELCOME!!**



**VBS LASAGA DINNER
MARCH 16, 2018
5:30PM – 7:00 PM
TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE**

THE MUSTARD SEED
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. BOX 160
COLLBRAN, CO 81624

FEBRUARY 2018

To contact Pastor Anne Djokic:
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