

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

DECEMBER 2019

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ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2020

CONG. CHURCH DINING
ROOM

12:30PM-2:00PM

Pastor Anne's Message for January, 2020

Grace to you and peace from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Welcome January 2020! It is a new year, a new beginning, a fresh start. We are about to write a new chapter of our lives while opening ourselves to God and His blessings!

I'd like to share some ideas for embracing this new start while bringing Light into your world, into your home, and into your life.

First of all: "Go slow to go fast." After retiring from teaching in May, 2019, I enjoyed the new adventure of retirement right away! I had kept a schedule guided by rules, regulations, bells, (and my heart); perpetual lists which I wrote in spiral notebooks for the majority of my teaching life. Am I still busy? *Why, of course, yes!* Yet, I feel that I am living my days with more *intention* and *attention* to what God would have me do for our church and for those I come in contact with throughout my day, wherever that may be. Depending upon your age and stage of life's journey, you will likely know how to adapt this idea to your personal circumstances.

Here are a few more ideas:

Be humble and listen.

Give thanks for everything.

Always be rejoicing in the Lord.

Walk by faith.

Always do the work of the Lord, with whatever gifts you have been given to spend and share on this Earth.

Be a peacemaker.

Open yourself to the blessings of God.

I am confident that each one of you can easily add to this list. If you'd like, jot down your thoughts and share them with me.

All the best in this New Year 2020!

In His Love,

Pastor Anne

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS RECITAL

December 1, 2019 AT 5:00 PM

The Children's Christmas Recital was a beautiful event. There were nine young students from the valley. Traditional Christmas carols were performed on the piano and violin. The children were dressed to represent the holiday season and the lights of the church Christmas tree added a festive flair.

The program was opened with the reading of the Christmas story from the book of Luke by Sveto Djokic. Pastor Anne acted as MC for the program. The youngest performer was Faith at the age of 3 yrs. The oldest students were Garrett Hittle on guitar and Dani Moore with her violin solo from Nut Cracker Suite.

Piano and Violin students and their teachers following the Recital



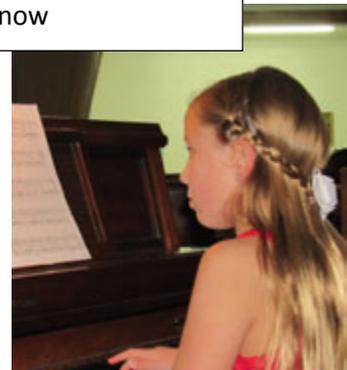
Faith, Bridgit, Ashli Jo and Garrett perform Away in a Manger



Reese Murphy plays Silent Night



Julia Murphy playing Frosty the Snowman and Let it snow



Castielle Hall playing Jingle Bells and Deck the Halls



WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

Turkey Dinner Nov. 16, 2019



Sue Bellotti, Shirley Clements, and Cindy Price enjoy dessert and a good laugh.



Schowalter family and guests enjoy the turkey dinner. Thanks for coming!

The dinner was prepared and served by the women of the church as an annual fund raiser for the Women's Fellowship. Thank you to this wonderful community for their support. This is a favorite event and some pretty amazing cooking happens here.

The winter coat drive is in full swing free coats, snow pants, hats, and boots are on display at Collbran Supply. Don't be cold this winter.

The UCC Sock Drive produced over 50 pairs of socks and several newly knit hats for distribution to American Veterans at the VA Hospital outreach.

This month health kits containing toothbrush, toothpaste, wash cloth, soap, and comb or razor will be assembled for the homeless shelter at the December meeting.

We want to thank these dedicated women for their drive and dedication for these mission projects. They keep the church family informed and involved supporting these efforts.

GET WELL, DELBERT

We all want to wish Delbert a speedy recovery. We also want to thank Robert Salamanca for filling in doing our snow removal while Delbert has been resting and healing. We will see you in January, Delbert.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Once again the Trustees have been busy keeping up with repairs on the building and furnace. The control panel went out on the boiler system for the furnace leaving the sanctuary and classrooms without heat for two weeks. The repairs have been made and the congregation is no longer having to meet for services in the dining room. The separate heating system in the basement was a real blessing. Everyone was happy to celebrate the church service where it was warm. It has very little to do with location.

New door sills are in place in both office entrances as well as new door knobs. The locks are more secure now and the sills are no longer a trip hazard. Bird Roark has done a very nice job on the repairs. Some work still remains for the front doors but parts are coming.

Trustees C Price, S Bellotti, J Cox , N. Karlson

Advent Wreath Lighting



The Advent wreath and candles bring a visual aspect to the “waiting” we are doing as the day of Christmas comes closer. Different people from the congregation take a turn lighting the candles. The lighting of the Advent candle by the Murphy/Cox Family was for the candle of Hope. Jevon and Monica Klingler for the candle of Love, Yanez family for Peace, and the Hittle family for Joy. Lanteri family will light the Candle of Light on Christmas Eve.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The children, with lots of help from their parents and members of the church, joined together after church Nov. 24th to decorate the Christmas tree. The women prepared a lunch of soup and sandwiches with pie for dessert before everyone joined in the fun.

The Murphy, Jenning, and Hittle children were angels helping put on the ornaments. A mile of paper chain and smiles finished the job.





First Congregational Church, UCC of Grand Junction made a visit to many of our older friends who are in assisted living facilities in the lower valley, to bring them Christmas carols and greetings. Pastor Anne visited with Dorothy Hawkins, Cookie Williams, and Marie Shafer.

REV. R. GENE MACK

The Reverend R. Gene Mack, age 92, of Greeley, Colorado passed away on Monday December 23, 2019 at Fairacres Manor in Greeley, CO.

He was born the oldest of four children on September 28, 1927 to Fred Arthur and Gertrude Pearl (Alps) Mack. He grew up in Lyons, CO and then served his country. First, in the Merchant Marines and then as a Tank Commander in the US Army.

On the steps of Old Stone Church, Lyons CO, on Easter of 1957, Gene met his beloved wife, Joanne (Mauch). They were wed on June 14, 1959.

Gene drove long haul trucks before going to Grinnell College. After graduating, he went to Yale Divinity School to become an United Church of Christ Minister in 1963.

Gene served Churches in Colorado at Eaton, Evans, Collbran and Longmont. He helped establish Aims Community College, Weld Food Bank and several head start programs. He loved to fish, woodworking, and playing with his grandkids, Robert, Montana, and Kimber.

Gene is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joanne; his sister Joan (Don); his daughters Lisa (Ed) and Sheila (Ethan); his sons Kevin (Judy) and Scott (Stacy).

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Gerald and Allen, and his nephew Joel.

An interment for Gene will be held Monday, January 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM at Linn Grove Cemetery, 1700 Cedar Ave, Greeley, CO 80631. A memorial service will occur Monday, January 6, 2020 at 11:00 AM at St. John's United Church of Christ, 3815 W. 20th St., Greeley, CO 80634. A reception will occur Monday, January 6, 2020 at St. John's United Church of Christ, 3815 W. 20th St., Greeley, CO 80634.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Gene's memory may be made to Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, in care of Allnut Mortuary.