

LASAGNA DINNER
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
FUNDRAISER
MARCH 22, 2019
COLLBRAN CONG. CHURCH
2003 HIGH ST
SERVING FROM 5:30PM – 7PM
TAKE OUT AVAILABLE CALL 487-3347

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

MARCH 2019

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www.collbrancongregationalchurch.org

Message from Pastor Anne, March 2019

Welcome Lent! Lent begins officially on March 6, 2019 this year. In 2017 Collbran Congregational, United Church of Christ started a new tradition in which we observe Ash Wednesday on the ***Sunday before*** Ash Wednesday. **Our Ash Wednesday Observance this year will be on Sunday, March 3 during our regular Sunday morning worship service.** All are welcome! The brief service for Ash Wednesday includes an Introduction and Greeting, Scripture Reading, Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline, Thanksgiving over the Ashes, the Imposition of Ashes on the forehead or the back of the hand, closing with the singing of a hymn. It is very meaningful and accessible to the entire congregation including our children and youth. The imposition of ashes has become a beautiful part of Congregational, United Church of Christ Church congregations throughout the United States and Canada.

As Lent begins, we pray that God will “create and make in us new and contrite hearts.” This season of Lent we are invited to prepare our hearts and lives for renewal. Our hearts are the ground from which spring our thoughts, our actions, our choices, and our words. Therefore, it is a right, good, and joyful choice that we practice some “cleaning, pruning, and general shaping up” of our spiritual lives as we approach Holy Week and Easter.

On Sunday, March 10 and throughout Lent, our Adult/Teen Sunday school class will resume meeting every Sunday at 9:45 - 10:30 AM to study and have conversation guided by the United Church of Christ Lenten booklet. All are welcome to join the class and Pastor Anne on this journey. It will be a joyful sharing of ideas and promises to be very enlightening and valuable for us. Come as often as you can! Feel free to “drop in” as each class will be a new and separate lesson. **Sunday School for Children (as always) 9:45AM. ☺**

Here is an overview of important dates in the Season of Lent.

All Sunday worship services begin at 11:00 AM.

Sunday, March 3: Observance of Ash Wednesday and Communion

Message: The Transfiguration

Sunday, March 10: First Sunday of Lent (Daylight Savings Time Begins)

Adult/Teen Lenten Sunday school class begins: 9:45AM

Sunday, March 17: Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 24: Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 31: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, April 7: Fifth Sunday of Lent and Communion

Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday, Beginning of Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 18: Seder Meal/Passover 5:30PM church dining room. There will be two meat choices again this year. All are welcome!

Friday, April 19: Good Friday

Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunday

I look forward to the season of Lent and sharing worship, fellowship, learning, and "being church" together with you. We begin our fourth year together on March 3! That's exciting!

Love and blessings always ~

Pastor Anne

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Julia Cox at 1:00 pm, following a delicious potluck lunch, made even better with good company.

Pastor Anne offered a blessing to start the meeting. We are thankful to have 11 children in church today!

25 people were in attendance. 16 were members so a quorum was met. A quorum is 30% of our 35 members or 11 people.

The agenda was approved for the meeting and the minutes from Jan 2018 read and approved.

Clerk's Report: Monica presented the report for 2018. We are very thankful for the addition of many new members!

Pastor's Report: Anne noted all the things she has been a part of in the past year. She accomplished so many good things. She noted that she made a total of 95 visits and 152

phone calls to church members and friends in 2018. This is a wonderful mission because those people greatly appreciate this extra attention and care. We greatly appreciate this because many of the folks are in Grand Junction and it is tougher for other congregants to get to see them. Anne said she is thankful for the increase in attendance and for all the work that was done in the past year. As of March, she will have been with us for three years. We are so thankful for that Pastor Anne and Sveto! You have brought new life to our church!

Moderator's Report: Julia gave her report. She said that it has been a good year and thanked everyone who helps keep the church up and running.

Treasurer's Report: Sue was unable to attend so Julia and Cindy gave the Treasurer's Report. Cindy pointed out that the \$247,000 in savings with the UC Fund is a gift that was given to help us in times of need. It is to help us through tough times but needs to be kept intact to keep the church running. Sue is very diligent to keep returning money used to this fund. We thank Sue for her good management of the church's finances! Cindy noted all the gifts given for the Noisy Offerings in 2018. It's amazing that so many missions are provided for. Julia noted that the Noisy Offering recipients will be the same in 2019 unless someone has another fund they'd like to consider.

Stewardship Report: Cyndi Leinberger gave the Stewardship Report. This committee (including Cindy Price and Shannon Murphy) prepared a letter, and sent it out in mid-December, to the church and community asking for contributions for all the different uses of our church. \$2300 has been received so far, as a result of that letter.

Steward's Report: Jeannie gave the Stewards report. The Stewards do an awesome job at keeping things running smoothly at the church, including communion, lighting candles, greeting people, assisting with collecting offering, etc. They also help line up help to provide food for fellowship time after services as well as for special events. They order and purchase poinsettias for Christmas, lilies at Easter, and palms for Palm Sunday. Without them, things would not go well at all! Julia thanked the Stewards for taking care of all these things with a smile or joke from Jeannie and with the steadfastness of Jean and Sylvia and Peggy Shiflet.

Trustee's Report: Cindy gave the Trustees report. The Trustees worked so hard to keep things running at the church this year and with completing repairs necessary at the Parsonage for its sale. Now that the parsonage is sold, it relieves some of the pressure in upkeep and maintenance but as with any old building, there is always something needed on the church! Julia, Cindy, Sue, and Nancy help keep things running smoothly. They also get some help from Sveto Djokic, Rory White, Becky Schowalter, and others, including, Norm McCallister, Brett Murphy, Tom Cox, Tom Bieser, and Larry Bellotti. Nancy noted how important it is that we realize how much work Delbert Kuehn does for us also. He takes

care of more than just snow shoveling and mowing. He keeps an eye on things and lets folks know of problems. Becky Schowalter does the same. She does more work than her contract requires.

Music Report: Sue Bellotti, Charli Gaddy, and Pastor Anne are our three talented musicians. Without them, our services would be a lot less lively and beautiful! Thank you for your beautiful music.

Christian Education: Sue got Vacation Bible School lined out before she left on a trip. Then, Julia, Cindy, Anne, and others pulled it off and made a fun few days of summer for area children. 55 people attended the Sunday following VBS! Sue continues to teach Sunday School with the help of Julia and others. Pastor Anne had several studies for the adults. Cyndi offered to teach a middle school class for VBS next year.

Women's Fellowship: Everyone missed Nancy while she was gone this summer. Women's Fellowship helps so many people. It's amazing all the good things that are done by a small group of people. They list a whole page of missions they supported this past year. That's in

Memorial Committee: Cindy reported that the funds which are donations received in honor of Les Hill and Dick Stites and others, in 2018, will be used to remodel the upstairs bathrooms to be handicapped accessible.

New Business: New contracts were issued to Anne, Delbert, and Becky for 2019. Their salaries were increased. A request was made for ideas/needs from the congregation. Nothing was noted at the time but folks are free to contribute their thoughts. One concern is about the drainage on the west side of the church. We will have to prioritize getting this work completed in the spring.

Some exciting news is that our membership is growing! Anne's visitation with folks, participation in events, etc. is helping grow our congregation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm with the assistance of Marshall and Hazel Jennings.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Klingler, Clerk

(This is an edited copy of the notes from the meeting. Anyone wanting to read the reports in their entirety can read the copy from the Congregational Church website which is www.collbrancongregationalchurch.org or request a copy to be received in the mail by contacting Cindy Price or Sue Bellotti by phone.

Womens Fellowship Report

The Collbran Cong. Church Womens Fellowship has not held a meeting for the past few months due to bad weather and illness. The group will meet on March 12, at 10:00 am in the dining room. Officers will be elected and there is a sincere need for women of the church and community to join in this group not only to help as an officer but to keep this group a viable, working part of the church. They would be more than glad to have anyone join in.

On May 7, 2019 we will be hosting the Senior Tea for graduates from Plateau Valley and Grand Mesa High School. There will be need for refreshments for the tea table. If there is some special cookie, sandwich, or candy you would like to contribute please contact Julia Cox or Nancy Karlson. The invitations have been printed and will be on their way to the staff and students soon. The entertainment will be Dave Wallin, the wonderful table magician from Grand Junction. Dave has performed for the seniors for over 35 years. Thank you so much Dave!

The winter coat drive has been a great success again this winter. We have given away over 70 coats in all sizes to our friends and families in the valley. We want to thank everyone for their generous donations. The coats, snow pants, gloves, hats, and boots were in such good condition, few repairs were needed. Please keep us in mind as you go into spring. We want to thank Collbran Supply for providing the space for the coat racks. This is so greatly appreciated.

We are planning the Maundy Thursday meal for April 18, 2019 at 5:30pm in the dining room. Sincerely, Julia Cox, Sec.

SCHEDULE FOR THE LENT AND EASTER

**ASH WEDNESDAY – ASHES WILL BE DISPENSES ON SUNDAY MAR. 3, 2019
FOLLOWING THE REGULAR SERVICE.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL – APRIL 18 2019 5:30PM DINING ROOM

**GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER OR QUIET MEDITATION 10AM-12NOON APRIL 19, 2019
IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY**

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE APRIL 21, 2019 11:00 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE PARK AT 10:30AM

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN WILL BEGIN AT 9:45AM
SPECIAL CRAFTS AND THE RESURECTION STORY**

POSTAGE INCREASE and MUSTARD SEED

As you all know the first class mail rate increased to .55cents in January. I have received notice from some who receive the Mustard Seed are agreeable to reading it online. I can email the Mustard Seed to you if you send me the email address you would like me to use.

The Mustard Seed is posted on the church website: collbrancongregationalchurch.org. From the opening page click 'current' that is above and to the left of the photo of the round stained glass window.

Older issues can be selected from the list.

We print 90 newsletters and usually mail about 60.

Sue Bellotti

Editor

CHRISTIAN ED

Spring is here and it is time to hold the Lasagna Dinner fundraiser for the summer Vacation Bible School program. We are working on a date for VBS.

The LASAGNA DINNER will be March 22, 2019 and held in the Congregational Church Dining Room. We will begin serving dinner at 5:30pm until 7:00 pm. Take out is available and can be ordered after 4pm on the 22nd by calling 487-3447. We are looking forward to cooking dinner for you and your family.

We have had more children in Sunday school this past month. I love to have those children ready to learn something new and enjoy a craft. A special thanks to the parents and grandparents who help these kids get to church. It takes a village to raise children and the home and church is the foundation.

Sue Bellotti

Director

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

In December 2018 our annual Stewardship drive took place. Letters were sent out to support in the community and to many of the families who make use of the building through gymnastics, 4-H, Grey Gourmet, and basketball in the gym. Many birthday parties and other family celebrations are held in the dining room and the park. We had a wonderful summer of hosting the Farmers Market for their Saturday sales day. Having this building and park used by the community is a blessing to the church.

We want to thank everyone for their generous support.

Cyndi Leinberger, Stewardship Chair
Trustee Report – February 2019

Trustees send special thanks to Delbert Koehn and his helper, Mike Meek for the all the hard work put in on the ice and snow management around the church building and sidewalks. Thank you!!

Trustees

Julia Cox, Cindy Price, Nancy Karlson, Sue Bellotti