



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 26, 27, 28
9:AM – 12:00 NOON
PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE**

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

JUNE 2019

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Mustard Seed, June 2019
Pastor Anne's Message

Welcome Spring! Welcome new life! Martin Buber reminds us that just to live is holy. Just to be is a blessing. If Buber is right, what keeps us from receiving life's blessings? It is not always so simple a thing as a lack of time. Often we may not recognize a blessing when it is given, or we may have ideas about life that keep us from experiencing what we already have. Sometimes we become frozen in the past or unaware of the potential in the present. We may even come to feel entitled to what has been given us by grace. Or we may become so caught up in what is missing in the world that we allow our hearts to break. There are many ways to feel empty in the midst of our blessings. We can bless others only when we feel blessed ourselves. Blessing life may be more about learning how to celebrate life than learning how to fix it. It may require an appreciation of life as it is and an acceptance of much in life that we cannot understand. It may mean developing an eye for joy. It is not necessary to sit in judgment in order to move things forward, and our anger may not be the most potent tool for change. Most importantly, it requires the humility to know that we are not in this task of restoring the world alone.

Welcome Spring and reach out to everyone with joy and in joy, with love and in love.
Blessings to you!

Pastor Anne Djokic

From [My Grandfather's Blessings](#) by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

SUMMER HOURS FOR CHURCH

**JUNE 2, 2019 THROUGH SEPT. 1, 2019 CHURCH
WILL BEGIN AT 10:00AM. THERE WILL BE NO
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR THE CHILDREN.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

The Congregational Church has scheduled a three day Vacation Bible School from June 26-28th with a program at church on Sunday the 30th at 10:00 AM. Watch for posters and banners later this month. We will have classes for pre-school, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, 3rd and 4th grades, 5th and 6th grades and middle school.

Planning meetings will be held during the first two weeks of June and if you would like to participate as a teacher, helper, or craft director please call Sue Bellotti at 487-3474. The Women's Fellowship will be managing the snack bar. They are very good at their job.

We always need adult helpers and teachers. If you would like to assist in a class or with crafts please contact Sue Bellotti. 487-3474 or at bellotti4@msn.com

We look forward to having you join us.

Sue Bellotti, Christian Ed. Director

Women's Fellowship

The Senior Tea for graduating seniors of Plateau Valley High School and Grand Mesa High School was held Tuesday, May 7th at 4:15 pm, in the church dining room. We wish to thank all the women of the church and community for coming to help with food preparation and setting up tables and decorations. There were about 80 people in attendance enjoying the wonderful tea table and Dave Wallin and his magic and slight of hand.

Each student received a Bible and the mothers received a carnation.

The invocation was given by Pastor Anne Djokic and the introductions by Nancy Karlson.

A luncheon for the family of Donna Anderson was served following the graveside service Saturday, May 18th.

Womens Fellowship will not continue to meet over the summer months. See you all in September.

Thank you,

Nancy Karlson, Pres.

By the way. This question always comes up at the Senior Tea. When did the Senior Tea begin? I know that Ethel Click said she remembered her Senior Tea. I believe Dorothy Hawkins has talked about early teas. Does anyone really know when the Senior Tea became an event?

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees will be planning a work day to clean up around the building and take care of some concerns inside, as well. This will be announced in church. We need to continue work on the back lawn area and finish with some landscaping that will require some shovels and gloves. There will be some trimming to be done in the park but not as much as usual. The past two years of serious cleanup have made a difference in the growth and clutter around the park and front of the church. Some grass seed will be spread on the west side after we finish with the landscaping.

The trustees met with a plumber, recommended by the Town of Collbran, for the installation of a backflow preventer. We have not received any bid on the work and will continue seeking bids with other providers.

There is a new door knob needing to be installed in the office. If anyone has a few minutes to remove the old one and install the new knob please let us know.

Delbert is busy mowing the fast growing grass and dandelions . We really appreciate the time and effort he spends keeping the lawns looking so nice. He has even had to shovel a little unexpected late Spring snow.

Becky Schowalter keeps us tidy inside the building and we want to thank her for her time and efforts. No one can clean windows like Becky.

Trustees: Cindy Price, Julia Cox, Sue Bellotti, and Nancy Karlson

CHURCH HISTORY

While searching the archives of Mesa County Library I discovered a recording of Dr. H. H. Zeigle describing his understanding of the beginning of the local hospital. I took notes as I listened and want to share them with you. This is a rather rough draft of what was being said.

An early pastor of the Collbran Congregational Church was in need of a parsonage. He purchased the ground on the hilltop west of Collbran and built himself a five room home. This was a very modern home for the area and for the times. It had Town water, indoor plumbing and a septic that was over the hill to the north, as well as a Delco electric plant with the batteries stored in a shed out back. He lived comfortable there until he decided to leave the valley and then offered the home and land for sale in the amount of \$3500.00.

The Collbran Congregational Church's Women's Fellowship group took on the task of raising the money for the purchase of this home. With the help of the church and community they were successful in purchasing the building and land. The home was then turned over to the town's people and it was furnished and maintained as a "Laying In" or Maternity Home. Women from the valley began coming in to deliver their babies here rather than at home. The survival rate of both mothers and infants improved greatly. The ability to keep a cabin with dirt floors clean enough to keep infection down was very difficult and this home provided the women and babies with a safer cleaner environment. Women were kept in bed for 10 to 14 days following a delivery and they were nursed and cared for by a live-in nurse/housekeeper. I can only imagine what a vacation that must have been for these new mothers.

Dr. Zinke is thought to be the first doctor to live in Collbran but did not provide full time medical care. Doctoring was still in it's infancy in the valley. Many doctors had passed through the valley, some of them working as doctors and others not continuing to practice.

Our church has a long history of working within the community to provide needed services. There were classrooms to take the overflow before the new school opened in the early 1960's. The gym built with the help of the community and school district to provide a basketball court for the high school.

The Mother's Park was a rough, overgrown vacant lot until the Mother's Club decided to clean it up and make a park out of it. This was in the early 1960's and many of us had mothers and grandmothers, who raked,

shoveled, burned, planted, and mowed the park in the early years. I, for one, remember being sent up the street pushing a mower to mow the park for my mom.

I would like to include your memories of the history of our church and events that have taken place here in the next few newsletters. Please contact me if you have a story to share.

Sue Bellotti – Editor

Noisy Offering Mission report

NOISY OFFERING LIST 2019

JANUARY 2019	MESA COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	\$64.75
FEBRUARY 2019	PLATEAU VALLEY ROBOTICS	\$ 69.36
MARCH 2019	YOUNG LIFE CAMPERSHIPS	\$43.28
APRIL 2019	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	\$111.17
MAY 2019	CHILD AND MIGRANT WORKERS	\$70.61
JUNE 2019	PV RESOURCE CENTER	
JULY 2019	PV CANCER FUND/JOYCE CHICOS	
AUGUST 2019	COME LET'S DANCE	
SEPTEMBER 2019		
OCTOBER 2019	COLLBRAN LIONS CLUB	
NOVEMBER 2019	CASA MILAGRA	
DECEMBER 2019	CWM BLANKET FUND	

The first Sunday of each month we have the children in attendance gather the Noisy Offering. This is a loose change offering saved up during the month from purchases and found coins. It is a fun and very effective way to support missions locally and around the world. I thought you might like to see the amounts this generous congregation gives each month to support these missions.

Thank you all for your generous support.

I would like to continue to send out the Mustard Seed to emails, when convenient. Please let me know if you would read an emailed copy of the newsletter. Thanks you, Sue Bellotti, Editor bellotti4@msn.com

Question: "Who was Elijah in the Bible?"

Answer: The prophet Elijah is one of the most interesting and colorful people in the Bible, and God used him during an important time in Israel's history to oppose a wicked king and bring revival to the land. Elijah's ministry marked the beginning of the end of Baal worship in Israel. Elijah's life was filled with turmoil. At times he was bold and decisive, and at other times fearful and tentative. He alternately demonstrates victory and defeat, followed by recovery. Elijah knew both the power of God and the depths of depression.

Elijah, a prophet of God whose name means "my God is the Lord," came from Tishbeh in Gilead, but nothing is known of his family or birth. We first meet Elijah in [1 Kings 17:1](#) when he suddenly appears to challenge Ahab, an evil king who ruled the northern kingdom from 874 to 853 BC. Elijah prophesies a drought to come upon the whole land as consequence for Ahab's evil ([1 Kings 17:1-7](#)). Warned by God, Elijah hides near the brook of Cherith where he is fed by ravens. As the drought and famine in the land deepen, Elijah meets with a widow in a neighboring country, and, through her obedience to Elijah's request, God provides food enough for Elijah, the woman, and her son. Miraculously, the widow's barrel of flour and jar of oil never run out ([1 Kings 17:8-16](#)). The lesson for the believer is that, if we walk in fellowship with the Lord and obey Him, we will be open to His will. And when we are in God's will, He fulfills all of our needs, and His mercy to us never runs short.

We next see Elijah as the central character in a face-off with the prophets of the false god Baal on [Mount Carmel](#) ([1 Kings 18:17-40](#)). The prophets of Baal call upon their god all day long to rain fire from heaven to no avail. Then Elijah builds an altar of stones, digs a ditch around it, puts the sacrifice on the top of wood and calls for water to be poured over his sacrifice three times. Elijah calls upon God, and God sends fire down from heaven, burns the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones and licks up the water in the ditch. God proved He was more powerful than false gods. It was then that Elijah and the people killed all of the false prophets of Baal, in compliance with God's command in [Deuteronomy 13:5](#).

After the great victory over the false prophets, rain once again fell on the land ([1 Kings 18:41-46](#)). However, in spite of victory, Elijah entered a period of wavering faith and depression ([1 Kings 19:1-18](#)). Ahab had told his wife, Jezebel, of God's display of power. Rather than turn to God, Jezebel vowed to kill Elijah. Hearing of this, Elijah fled to the wilderness, where he prayed for God to take his life. But God refreshed Elijah with food, drink, and sleep instead. Then Elijah took a forty-day journey to Mount Horeb. There Elijah hid in a cave, still feeling sorry for himself and even confessing his belief that he alone was left of the prophets of God. It is then that the LORD instructed Elijah to stand on the mountain as the LORD passed by. There was a great wind, an earthquake, and then fire, but God was not in any of those. Then came a still, small voice in which Elijah heard God and understood Him. God gave Elijah instructions for what to do next, including anointing Elisha to take his place as prophet and assuring Elijah that there were still 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed to Baal. Elijah obeyed God's commands. Elisha became Elijah's assistant for some time, and the two continued to deal with Ahab and Jezebel, as well as Ahab's son and successor, Ahaziah. Rather than die a natural death, Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind ([2 Kings 2:1-11](#)).

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE TIME AND SEARCH THE BIBLE FOR INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL FACTS ABOUT THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF OUR FAITH. ELIJAH IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE PROPHETS TO TEACH THE CHILDREN ABOUT. HE IS SO MUCH LIKE EACH OF US. HE IS SOMETIMES UP AND SOMETIMES DOWN. HE IS SOMETIMES BRAVE AND SOMETIMES FEARFUL. HE IS SOMETIMES CONFIDENT AND AT OTHER TIMES VERY UNSURE. GOD IS ALWAYS THERE TO BRING HIM THROUGH IT ALL.