

THE MUSTARD SEED
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO BOX 160
COLLBRAN, CO 81624

MAY 2020

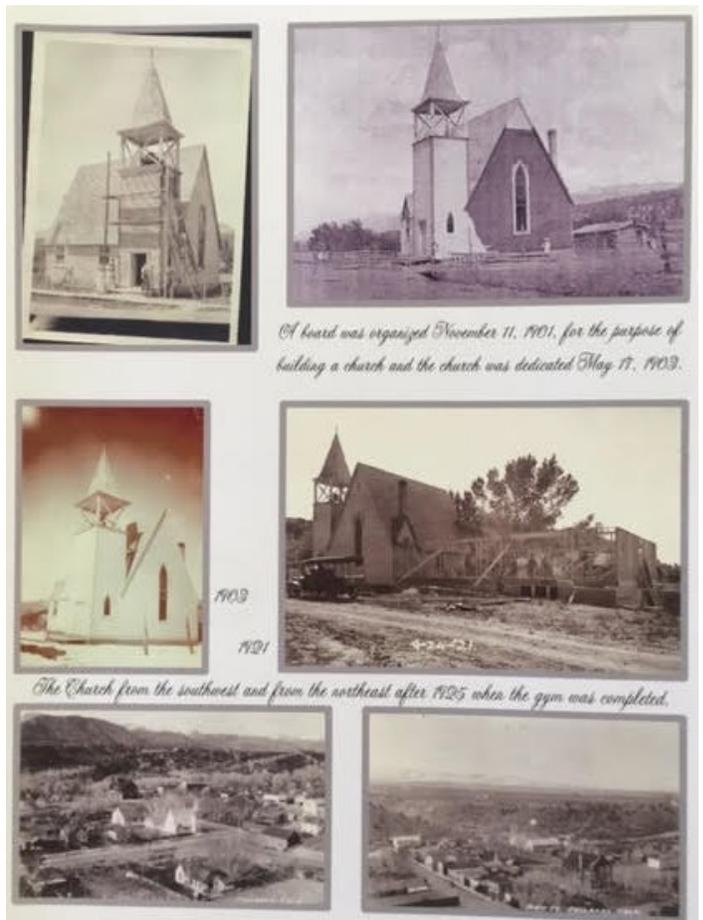
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Happy Birthday Collbran Congregational Church

**117 years old
on May 17**

**The church was
dedicated
May 17, 1903.**



Pastor Anne's Message, May 2020

“Pulling Together in Harness ~ While Staying Apart: How Collbran Congregational Church is Meeting the Challenges and Staying in Close Touch during this time of Corona Virus”

Dear Family and Friends in Collbran, Plateau Valley, Grand Junction, Mesa County, Across Colorado, Out of State, and Around the World:



I have noticed how everyone is “stepping up to continue being the church” and staying strong as a community through this time of social distancing ~ beginning about March 16 through May 1, 2020, and beyond!

I have noticed how individuals have gone above and beyond to reach out to others; running an errand, picking up someone's newspaper, delivering groceries or supplies to those who need a hand, calling and checking in on everyone, providing an Easter lunch to a dozen front doors, sewing masks, and providing feedback and appreciation to one another.

I have noticed how through phone calls, text messages, and emails there is sharing of ideas, photos, and music ~ staying close in heart while staying apart for the good and health of all.

I have noticed how eagerly, expertly, and confidently our households and families have worshipped in their homes using our Sunday Worship Services. I imagine that much has been added with personal touches, making this time of in-home gathering or by-phone worship, very meaningful.

I have noticed that the resourcefulness of our people + the reflective nature of our families + the resiliency and creativity of everyone = a time of growth in a very special and unique way.

I thank you and congratulate this precious Community of Faith. This was uncharted and unprecedented territory for us in 2020. Remember what Clarissa Pinkola Estes wrote in We Were Made for These Times: “Absolutely we were!” I am so proud of everyone!

When it is time and it is safe, I look forward to being together in person. Until then ~ know that you are loved, so much! Stay well!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Anne

This Winter at the Church

There is just something incredibly special when the Hittle family or the White family volunteer to provide snacks for fellowship time after our regular church services.

To celebrate Valentine's Day on February 16, the Hittle family presented an amazing display of treats. This was also the Sunday that Heather Power was baptized, which made it a special Sunday.

Reception of New Members.

On March 8, six people joined our church. We are happy to welcome Lew and Tilda Evans, Beverly and Mike Loftus, Becky Schowalter, and Debbie Hamm. Cindy Price, acting moderator, and Pastor Anne Djokic welcomed them into our church family.



*Back: Cindy Price, Becky Schowalter, Debbie Hamm
Front: Tilda Evans, Lew Evans, Beverly Loftus, Mike Loftus, Pastor Anne Djokic*



Pastor Anne Djokic, Becky Hittle, Josie Hittle, Bridgit Hittle, Faith Hittle, Garrett Hittle, Hunter White, Steve Hittle, Ashli Jo Hittle

On March 15, Hunter White, Becky Hittle and her children Garrett, Ashli Jo, Bridgit, Faith, and Josie joined the church. Steven Hittle stood up with his family. He has been a member since he was a child.

The White family prepared refreshments for fellowship following church. With the help of their grandmother, they presented a beautiful table of St. Patrick's day desserts.



Left to right: Riley, RJ, Caleb, and Lanae White



Spring in Plateau Valley



Josie Hittle enjoys spring.

Spring comes to our valley in the most amazing ways. We see days of warm sun and the next will be freezing cold with killing frost.

This first picture is of our delightful Josie Hittle, becoming a little girl. No longer the baby we first met.

Chicks are hatching, calves, lambs, or livestock to care for are arriving on the ranch.

Sami and Lexi Addison have new 4H calves and sheep. Julia, Reese, and Tage Murphy are raising and training pigs and cattle for the Fair. Ailis Yanez Aguirre is raising pigs. The

Jennings family has ducks and chicks.



Marshall Jennings holds a duckling



Calf meets lamb at the Addisons



Ailis Yanez Aguirre with her pig



Hazel visits with some new chicks



A new lamb at the Addisons



Julia Murphy and her pig

Easter Lunches



Several women of the church provided different dishes for the Easter Sunday Dinners that they assembled and delivered on Saturday, April 11, 2020. They delivered 12 dinners. We received several notes and calls of thanks.

A big thank you to the women who cooked. Julia Cox did the cheesy potatoes; Sue Bellotti baked the ham and chicken; Sylvia Spangler provided the cold slaw; Cindy Price made Jell-O salads and rolls; Debbi Terwedo baked cakes; and Becky Hittle made a cheesecake.

Vacation Bible School Lasagna Dinner Fund Raiser

March 13, 2020 was the annual spring Lasagna Dinner, which supports the summer VBS program. Sue and her helpers prepared the usual number of ten large pans of lasagna. This was some of the best help Sue has ever had.

This event fluctuates between sit-down dinners and take-out meals. Every year is a little different. This year we saw 64 take-out dinners and only about 24 meals eaten on site. We ran out of lasagna an hour into the event. Those wonderful helpers did not get to enjoy the lasagna they had worked so hard to prepare.

We apologize to those who did not get a full meal for their generous donations. When this isolation is over, and we can all come together again to enjoy a meal together, Sue will prepare more lasagna. Her gift to you.

Thank you all for your support of the children's programs at the Congregational Church.



Women's Fellowship

The traditional Senior Tea for graduates of Plateau Valley School and Grand Mesa High School was cancelled along with Prom and Graduation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first time these events have been cancelled since the beginning of school in Plateau Valley. We are not sure when we can or if we will present the Senior Tea this year.

The winter coats were removed from Collbran Supply early in March. We give a great big thank you to everyone who donated the wonderful coats, boots, hats, mittens, and snow pants. There were bags and bags donated. When I clean up at the end of the winter season there are usually one or two bags to save until next year.

The last meeting of Women's Fellowship was held the second Tuesday of March with only Sue Bellotti and Loi Hittle in attendance. We are all looking forward to being able to come together again in the Fall. There will be no meeting for the Women's Fellowship until September. See you then.

President Sue Bellotti

Treasurer's Report



General income for March was \$3638.67. This income is from collection at church, building use, and interest income.

We paid for the repairs to the furnace from the failure we had around Thanksgiving. The amount was \$2304.00. The second quarter general liability insurance was due before April 1 in the amount of \$2730.25. Having two large bills due in the same month puts a strain on the budget. \$5000.00 was pulled from the UCFunds investment account to cover these expenditures.

The Lasagna Dinner generated \$1148.00 for the Vacation Bible School program and Sunday School expenses during the year.

March Noisy Offering for Rienks Family produced a very generous \$625.00.

With everyone being home for the month of April, probably May, and possibly June, I expect a drop in income for these months. I am receiving some checks in the mail, and it is very much appreciated as I continue to have bills coming due and the Pastor to pay. Please remember the Church as you are paying bills. Checks can be mailed to PO Box 160, Collbran, CO 81624 or directly to the church through online banking bill pay with your checking account or credit card.

Be safe and Stay Home, Sue Bellotti, Treasurer

Trustees' Report April 2020

Trustees check on the church building and grounds twice a week for security and safety concerns.

A couple issues remain to be resolved with the furnace boiler system and the kitchen prep sink disposal. The new faucet is installed and works well. It is connected to the drain. The new disposal is not working yet, so we cannot put food remnants in the sink.

Becky Schowalter has taken on the task of Spring Cleaning in the church. When we can enjoy worship and activities again it is going to be fresh and clean for all. Delbert Koehn takes care of snowy sidewalks when we get spring snowfalls and is planning to mow the grassy areas and trim the edges again. The care is as continuous for the church as it is for our homes.

Please continue to pray for our church family.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Price for the Trustees, Julia Cox, Nancy Karlson, and Sue Bellotti

Resurrection Cookies

On the night before Easter, prepare this recipe with your children or grandchildren as a hands-on way to teach the Easter story.



INGREDIENTS

1 cup pecans 1 teaspoon vinegar 3 egg whites Pinch of salt 1 cup sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300°F.
2. Place pecans in a zip-top plastic bag and let the children beat them with a wooden spoon or rolling pin to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.
3. Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 teaspoon vinegar into a mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.
4. Add egg whites to the vinegar. Explain that eggs represent life and Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.
5. Sprinkle a pinch of salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.
6. Add 1 cup sugar to the bowl. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalms 34:8 and John 3:16.
7. Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until the mixture forms stiff peaks. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes for those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.
8. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto two parchment-lined cookie sheets. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.
9. Put the cookies in the oven, close the door, and turn off the oven. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door closed. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.
10. Go to bed! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. However, Jesus' followers were also in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.
11. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! Explain that on the first Easter, Jesus' followers were stunned to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

Eleanor “Delores” Scott



Our dear mother, sister, and friend has passed away. She loved her family and was kind to everyone who ever befriended her or card for her. How we will miss her sweet nature and wonderful sense of humor.

Delores was born on August 13, 1929 to Wilfred and Oleta Beals in Edgemont, SD. She was the oldest of four girls. Her father was a forest ranger so the family moved often in her early years, living in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. She graduated from Norwood High School, Norwood, CO in 1948.

She married Robert “Gene” Scott in Norwood on December 25, 1948. Early married life was spent in Norwood and then Pueblo, CO where their two daughters were born. They moved to Collbran in 1959 and lived there 58 years. She kept company books for her and Gene’s construction company,

drove school bus, was a past Nobel Grand and active in the Rebekahs, and a member of the Congregational Church. She enjoyed cooking, reading tole painting, playing games, fishing, and especially enjoyed sitting out on her patio in Collbran saying “Isn’t this the most beautiful place”.

After Gene’s death in 2017, she moved to Hoover, AL to be close to her youngest daughter and died April 10, 2020 in her room at Country Cottages Memory Care.

Preceding her in death were her parents and husband.

Survivors include her daughters, Linda (Dan) Hawkins, Lake Havasu City, AZ and Karen (Lewis Arnold, Hoover, AL; grandchildren Brittany Fairbanks, Dustin (Mollie) Arnold, and Kaytlin (Omar) Lopez; great-grandchildren Aiden, Evelyn, Madelyn, and Adaline; and her sisters, Dinece Paquette and Lois Gilstrap of Grand Junction, and Louise Haslem of Hayden, CO.

Services will be held at a later date.

Obituary courtesy of PV Times.

Sundays during Stay-at-Home

For the past seven Sundays, Pastor Anne has provided the Sunday Message to the members of the congregation by email or regular mail. This will continue until Governor Polis allows churches to reopen for worship. Share with us how you have used these messages to create your own worship time during the period. Thank you, Pastor Anne, for helping to keep our community together.