

Pastor Anne's Message, November 2021

"All My Life's a Circle"



On Saturday, October 2, 2021, the Western Association, Rev. Erin Gilmore, the Collbran congregation, and Pastor Anne Djokic celebrated the Covenant and Installation of Anne!

Anne's story and journey from Buckland, Massachusetts to her installation in Collbran, Colorado is a story of a call to ministry ~ "All My Life's a Circle."

Born on May 31, 1957, to Rev. Donald and Priscilla Morrison just days before the United Church of Christ came to be, Anne grew up in U.C.C. parsonages including Buckland, Massachusetts; Hudson, New Hampshire; Flat Rock, Michigan; and Topeka, Kansas...where she turned ten!

At the University of Kansas, Lawrence, she studied Music Education and walked every Sunday to Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ church where Rev. Gary Bryant was the Associate Minister. After three years of teaching elementary general music in Topeka, Anne moved to Greeley, Colorado where she earned her master's degree in Gifted Education. Following graduation in 1983, she took a teaching job in Grand Junction, Colorado.

On an Outing Club hike, she met Sveto Djokic whose family was sponsored by the World Council of Churches in 1951, and immigrated from Kassel, West Germany to settle in Collbran, Colorado. His family belonged to the Collbran Congregational Church. Anne and Sveto were married August 5, 1984, at the chapel on Baron Lake, Grand Mesa. They moved to Kansas to teach at Fort Riley Military Post and then Jackson, Wyoming before returning to Grand Junction in 1991 to teach and help care for Sveto's parents in Collbran.

Anne completed the Theological Education Institute in Denver, a licensed ministry program (2006 – 2010) while teaching fulltime and providing occasional pulpit supply in Collbran, for none other than Rev. Gary Bryant!

Gary Bryant planned to retire in February 2016 from the Collbran Congregational, U.C.C church. When Rev. Sue Artt visited Collbran to discuss their next steps to a pastor, she heard Anne's name for the first time. The next day (December, 2015) Sue and Anne met, and the circle was put into motion. Anne would be the "designated pastor," beginning March 1, 2016. The Collbran congregation planned a "Welcoming Worship Service" and on September 18, 2016, this warm, loving, incredibly beautiful service took place!

Fast forward to several years later and an inspired visit with Rev. Erin Gilmore who determined that Anne was "truly called" to serve the Collbran church and should be installed. The Western Association and Anne planned the installation service for April, 2020. It was postponed due to the COVID -19 pandemic.

On October 2, 2021, Anne's service of Installation was joyfully held! Sincerest and warmest "THANKS!" to the Western Association; Rev. Erin Gilmore; Pastor Jane Kramer, Betty Barnes (Hayden); Rev. Deana Armstrong (Craig); Karen Caton, Heidi Hess (Grand Junction); Suzanne Bellotti (Collbran) for their participation in the Installation Service. Special thanks to Tilda Evans, Cindy Price (Collbran), and Sveto Djokic for their part in the worship on this celebratory day!

October Photos



Agape Dinner after Pastor Anne's Installation



Pastor Anne's Installation Service



Sue Bellotti giving the charge to the Congregation



Welcoming new member Cheryl Bryant

Women's Fellowship Report

On October 9, 2021, the Women's Fellowship directed the funeral dinner following the service for the family of Annie Anderson. The Cattle Women provided hot beef dishes and Crystal Crackers provided a nice array of salads. The church women provided dinner rolls, sliced fresh tomatoes, desserts, beverages, and paper goods. The extra hands helping in the kitchen were a blessing, and we want to thank each of those who stayed and helped serve and clean up. You are so appreciated.

A second dinner followed in the afternoon for the family of Leland Clifton. The large Clifton family had prepared a slide show of family slides, favorite songs of Leland and Vickie, and memories and photos for everyone to enjoy. We appreciate being asked to provide this meal for the family.

A tea was provided for the family and friends of Marie Shafer, a longtime member of the valley, following her funeral service on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

Pres. Sue Bellotti reports that the annual Turkey Dinner is being planned for November 13, 2021. The dinner will be provided as Take Out only again this year. The group will be able to maintain the cost of \$10.00 per plate due to the amount of food donations received from the church and community.

If you would like to provide an apple, pecan, or pumpkin pie, please contact Jean Kees or Sue Bellotti.

Loi Hittle will be baking her wonderfully soft and fluffy dinner rolls. Cindy and Loi will be recreating the famous Thanksgiving Dressing recipe of Clara Mae Ward.

The delicious Almond Toffee will be available when you order your Take-Out Dinner. Please indicate how much Almond Toffee you would like when you call in your dinner order. It will be available with the meal when you pick up your order. Toffee will be \$ 10.00 a ½ pound bag. Please remember to make your Toffee order when you make your Take-out dinner order.



The WINTER COAT GIVEAWAY will again be held at Collbran Supply. The coat rack will go up later in October. Please stop in to select a warm winter coat for any member of the family. There are gloves, mittens, hats, snow pants, and some boots available.

If you have warm winter outerwear you would like to donate, please leave at Collbran Supply or contact Sue Bellotti 487-3474 or Julia Cox 487-3750. Coats for men, women, and children are needed.

Please be sure there are no broken zippers, rips, or stains. We are not able to accept lightweight sweatshirts, jackets, jeans, or every day clothing.

Trustees' Report

The progress on the bathroom renovations seems to be slowly progressing. A meeting was held with Burke, the contract consultant from Bryce Group on Wednesday, October 19th at the church. Options were discussed and additional contact through Burke to Ford Construction.

General maintenance has continued. There seems to be progress in keeping the rain water from draining into the kitchen stairwell on the south side of the building. Robert made another adjustment with the gutter and slope to improve for drainage away from the stairwell.

Winter will soon be upon us. Time to look into ice melt and snow shovels.

Trustees, Julia Cox, Cindy Price, Sue Bellotti, and Bernice Yanez



Music Director's Report



Sue Bellotti is happy to announce that the piano was tuned this last week. It has been over three years since we were able to have this done. Thanks to John Blackburn for providing this service.

Sue Bellotti played special music for the Installation Service for Pastor Anne Djokic, on Saturday, October 2.

Charli Gaddy provides the addition of her flute for hymns when she is available.

We will start looking at some special music for the Christmas Season. Anyone wanting to join in on a duet or quartet, please let Sue know. It would be great fun and a wonderful addition to the celebration of the Birth of our Savior during the Christmas Season.

Marilyn Eidson

With a sad heart, but a peaceful soul, Judy Bartlett let us know of her mother, Marilyn Eidson's, passing in her sleep on Wednesday, October 13th. She lived a full life and would have turned 99 in November of this year. She always told me that when it was her time to go, she just wanted to go to sleep and wake up in a different world. That is what happened. She passed peacefully and without pain.



Stewards Report

The Church Council, under advisement of the Board of Stewards, purchased new NRSV Pew Bibles. The older, much used, Bibles were removed from the pews in September, and the new large print Bibles placed in the racks.

We are asking that anyone who would like to sponsor the purchase of one of the new Bibles contact Jean Kees. Also, Bibles can be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$20.00 per Bible.

The older Bibles are available to anyone wanting to take one home. Please contact Jean Kees.

We are all very appreciative of the large print version now in use. Thank you to the Stewards for taking on this project. Thank you to Jean Kees, especially, for moving forward with purchasing the new Bibles.

Bible Sponsorship

In Memory Of

In Dedication To

Sponsored By

(circle one)

Name: _____

From: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please provide one form for each Bible sponsored.

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

NOVEMBER 2021

To contact Pastor Anne Djokic:
Church: 970.487.3349
Email: annef.djokic@gmail.com
www.collbrancongregationalchurch.org

Editor: Tilda Evans, lewtildaevas@gmail.com

Annual Turkey Dinner

Saturday, November 13, 2021

Pickup between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm

\$10 Adults \$5 Children under 12

Call by Friday, November 12, to reserve your meals

Julia Cox – 487-3750

Sue Bellotti – 487-3474

Leave a message if necessary.

Include name, phone number, and number of dinners requested.

Please leave Toffee orders at the same time.

