

Pastor Anne's Message, January 2022

God said to Rebekah, "Two nations are in your womb; two different peoples will emerge from your body." When she reached the end of her pregnancy, she discovered she had twins. Genesis 25: 23-24

Long before Esau and Jacob were born, eons before they fought in Rebekah's womb and grew up to fight for Isaac's blessing, ages before one twin cheated the other and had to run for his life, there was a cosmic force at work in the world to heal, restore, and redeem all people and all creation.

Long before a baby named Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up to be a barrier-crossing, trouble-making, heavy-lifting, death-defying wonder, there was a dynamic force working in and through all things to love, heal, and reconcile all people and creation.

As the stories of Jacob and Esau, and Jesus of Nazareth remind us, the workings of this transformative love rarely follow a straight line. The ordained, ever-in-process healing, reconciliation, and peace is usually less "Kumbaya" or "Silent Night" than trouble in the streets, struggles for justice, and life-giving lessons learned the hard way.

Incarnation (the embodiment of God the Son in human flesh as Jesus Christ) is a messy and wondrous business. And while we celebrate the Word Become Flesh once a year, the reconciling Christ always has been and always will be at work in the world. Whatever our situation, may we trust that Your love is at work in it!

(THE STILLSPEAKING WRITERS' GROUP; Vicki Kemper: Pastor of First Church UCC in Amherst, Massachusetts. 2021 Advent-Epiphany Devotional.)

As we walk boldly and tenderly into the New Year 2022, I wish for you the courage, strength, vigor in spirit, and energy to embrace the adventures, challenges, and growth that await you in 2022! You have been bestowed upon by the Holy Spirit with talents and gifts to live as modern day disciples of Jesus Christ, in a world that needs your very skills and love as Christ loves us!



Collbran Congregational, United Church of Christ reaches out to all who are seeking a connection to God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit in order to live as disciples while serving our fellow men and women in the Plateau Valley Community, Collbran, and beyond.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here ~ to worship and grow, to serve the Lord with gladness and come into His house with singing. "There is joy in the house of the Lord, and we won't be quiet!" *(Phil Wickham, House of the Lord.)*

Blessings to you and a Happy New Year! Welcome in! Pastor Anne Djokic

Moderator Report

The Church Council reviewed items in the Church’s Constitution and Bylaws regarding the statements of belief we as members and church attendees hold and how items in the By-laws connect smoothly with each other to uphold the actions of the church.

The openings in Church offices were discussed, and the Council was pleased to accept volunteers to serve in the coming year. Thank you for your support and interest!

The Annual Meeting date was set for January 30, 2022. The meeting will be immediately after church on that Sunday, and a potluck lunch will follow the meeting. We look forward to your attendance and participation!

Cindy Price, Moderator
Collbran Congregational Church, UCC

History of the “Noisy Offering”

Several years ago, Faye Gallegos served as an interim pastor for our church. The “Noisy Offering” was a practice she had taken into many churches she served. It was an immediate hit with the Collbran congregation and became our tradition.

Each month, the Council chooses a local, national, or international charity as the “Noisy Offering”. The offering usually is made up of pocket change or direct donations collected during the month.

Jesus gives us instructions in giving: Acts 20:35

‘In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

This year we gave to the following charities:

January 2021	Mesa County Habitat for Humanity	106.50
February 2021	Hope West Kids Good Grief Program	284.87
March 2021	Young Life Camperships	187.35
April 2021	Water for South Sudan	105.45
May 2021	Casa – Mesa County	95.62
June 2021	Child And Migrant Workers	93.15
July 2021	PV Cancer Fund/Joyce Chicos	118.07
August 2021	Casa Milagra	78.34
September 2021	Haitian Relief/RMC	57.21
October 2021	Collbran Lions Club	135.72
November 2021	Buzzard Monce #86 American Legion	
December 2021	CWM Blanket Fund	

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Advent Photos



The Yanez Family lights the Candle of Hope



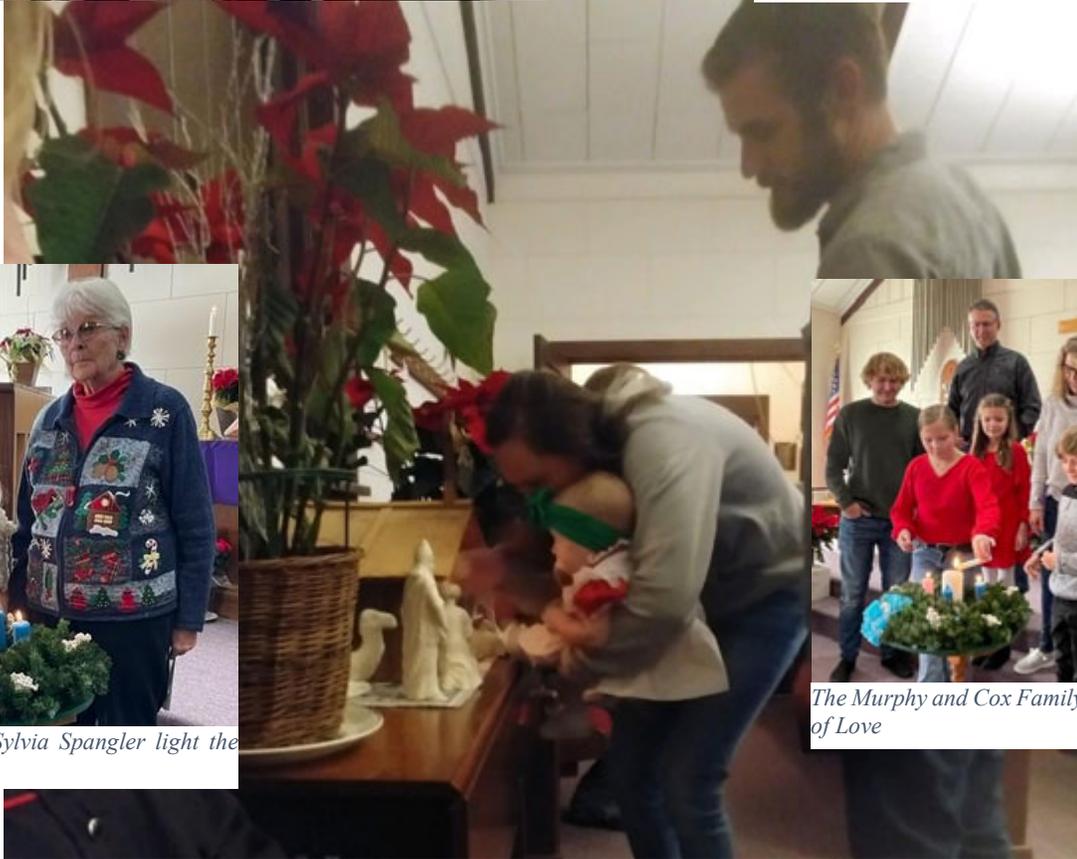
Stewards light the Candle of Peace



Kinzley Foss and Sylvia Spangler light the Candle of Joy



The Murphy and Cox Family light the Candle of Love



Scottlyn Shiflet places the Baby Jesus in the manger



The Shiflet Family lights the Christ Candle

Women's Fellowship

Another successful Thanksgiving dinner fundraiser was held for Women's Fellowship on November 13, 2021. Once again the meal was presented as Take-out Only.

The community support is wonderfully amazing. Donations for the dinner come from several small businesses in Collbran. Rosa, at Marigold Market, provides the turkeys for the dinner. Collbran Supply is quick to provide heavy weight bags for packing the meals into. The handles on the bags, this year, were especially nice. The Café provided tiny cups with lids for the cranberry sauce. Rachael Showalter, publisher of the PV Times, provided wonderful advertising.

The Almond Toffee is made by Cindy Price with some help from her sister, Sue. Over 30 pounds of candy were sold.

This long-held Fall Celebration has seen many changes since its inception. Over 100 years ago, the church began holding a Fall Harvest Celebration. There is a picture of citizens with their produce stacked on the bleachers at the east end of the gymnasium. Later on the women began displaying some of their beautiful quilting, embroidery, knitting, and crochet work and baked goods for sale.



In the 1970's, Craft Fairs were just becoming popular. For several years, the event was called the Turkey Dinner and Bazaar. The quilt often displayed by the Historical Society is one example of quilting and embroidery done by members of the church and community. Shirley Lyons, Nell Ivy, Louise Kenney, Dorothy Hawkins, and many more names lost to history stitched the brands and put the quilt together. It was raffled off as a fundraiser and, I believe, the winner was Judy Hatch.

After the popularity of craft fairs out grew the space and ability of the women to organize it, the dinner returned to just the Turkey Dinner. Several years ago, Toffee sales were added to the party, and those sales continue to grow.



As President of Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Church, I want to thank each and every one of you that made time in your life to help with cleaning, purchasing, preparing the meal, and serving. This is definitely a big event and fundraiser for the Women's Fellowship. It supports the church and missions. These fundraisers make it possible for the church to continue to be able to support this huge building and the church.

I hear people in their seventies say how amazing it is that the church is still holding this dinner as they remember attending as children with their grandparents. Some of us believe we were probably in line serving, even then.

Sue Bellotti President of Women's Fellowship

December Photos



Pastor Anne and Clara Mae Ward watch over Faith Hittle, Miguel Yanez, Ashley Jo Hittle, Bridget Hittle, Reese Murphy, Tage Murphy, and Ailis Yanez as they decorate the church for Christmas



Winter Coat Giveaway

DON'T BE COLD THIS WINTER.

Collbran Supply
203 Main St.

Rack is located in Electrical Department of the store. Many sizes are available.



This is a mission of the Collbran Congregational Church, UCC, Women's Fellowship.

Donations of clean, warm winter coats in any size may be made at Collbran Supply or by contacting Sue Bellotti 487-3474 or Julia Cox 487-3750. Coats for men, women, and children are needed.

Trustees Report

The Trustees received updates from Kruger Roofing about the roof and Benjamin Franklin about furnace repair.

They received an update from Rachel Jennings regarding gym use.

They received weekly construction reviews and updates on the bathroom and fellowship room upgrades from Bryce Group. The project is complete. The cabinets in the fellowship room make the area look bigger. The sink is a very handy addition. The bathrooms are spacious and inviting. Thanks to all who helped plan and oversee the project.

They discussed the status of the church sign and stained glass window repairs. They also discussed keys for the church.

Trustees Julia Cox, Berenice Yannez, Sue Bellotti, and Cindy Price



Stewards Report



Beautiful poinsettias decorated the sanctuary for the Sundays of Advent again this year. Individuals purchased the flowers in memory or honor of family members and friends.

Tom and Julia Cox in memory of Scott Rienks, Grandma Ann, and Grandma Ruth

Sveto and Anne Djokic in memory of Miodrag and Helena Djokic and Don and Priscilla Morrison

Lew and Tilda Evans in memory of Nels and Rhoda Evans and John and Eric Myers

Mike and Beverly Loftus in memory of Agnes V. Holtzer and Jean Loftus
Scott Mack in memory of Rev. Gene Mack and to honor Joann Mack

Miguel and Bernice Yanez in memory of Edith Ann Power and to honor Ashley and Salem Shenold

Lillian and Heather Power in memory of Lloyd and Edith Ann Power

Sylvia Spangler in memory of Winnie Cook

You can still sponsor or purchase one of the new large print Bibles in memory or honor of a loved one. Please contact Jean Kees if you have any questions. The cost is \$20.00 per Bible.

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

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

JANUARY 2022

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Annual Church Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Immediately after the church service

Agenda includes adoption of budget
and election of church officers

Potluck lunch to follow after meeting