

Pastor Anne's Message, May 2022

“Move the Stone Away ~ Believe and Live the Resurrection!”

It was one week after the first Easter. Jesus is alive! The disciples were ‘locked down’ in their homes for fear of the Jews. Lockdown, yes ~ we understand lockdown. The human mind searches for order: to make sense of things, to understand the world, to organize all the data that comes to our awareness. This is a stressful time especially for the news we watch, take in, or hear about. We understand how the disciples felt. The disciples were striving to make sense of Jesus’ resurrection, to embrace it; yet there were risks involved. In the Easter Season, we celebrate the biggest mystery of faith: That Jesus was slain for the sins of the world and that He rose from the grave. Nothing in life is more certain than death.

Scripture: *The Gospel of John: Chapter 20: Verses 19-29.* When John writes, he uses simple



metaphors to help us understand who Jesus is and how he relates to us. For example: “Jesus is the Bread of Life, The Vine, The Good Shepherd, The Living Water.” On Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There comes a time however, when we must Live the Resurrection! This is not always easy. Some days it seems easier and safer to lock the doors of our house or of our minds and avoid the circumstances and people in our lives. But every time we shut the doors of our life, or close our hearts, we imprison ourselves. The disciples left the empty tomb of Jesus and entered into their own tombs of fear, doubt, and blindness. The locked doors had become the great stone sealing their tombs. The doors of our tombs are always locked from the inside.

I wonder, three plus weeks after Easter, is your life different? Are you living in the freedom and joy of resurrection or behind a locked door? The locked places of our lives are always more about what is going on inside of us rather than around us. Jesus is always entering the locked places of our lives. He comes “Eastering” in us. He does not open the door for us; but He gives us all a need and a reason; so that we might open our own doors to a new life, a new creation, a new way of being.

Jesus shows up bringing life, offering life, and embodying life. Life and peace are resurrection reality. The life and peace of Jesus’ resurrection enables you and me to meet and live through any of life’s circumstances. We are free to unlock the doors of our lives, move the stone away, believe and live the resurrection. Amen.

Blessings and peace to you,

Pastor Anne Djokic

Stewardship Report

We have received several responses from community and church members, for the annual appeal for funding to support upkeep on the community building and services attached to the Collbran Congregational Church, UCC.

Thank you all for your generous donations to this effort. We would not be able to keep the building safe and pleasant to use, if it were not for your ongoing support. Thank you for your notes of historical input as well. It helps us remember the strong faith and generosity of the early families who believed in providing the community with church services, coming from a well-planned, well-built building that they could be proud of, on land donated by generous people of faith.

Cyndi Leinberger, Chair
Cindy Price

Trustees Report

Trustees have been working with the contractor for the recent church remodels to obtain satisfactory completion of the tasks.

Also, we have been keeping the building busy with scheduled use by church and community members.

Please remember to contact us if you need space for parties, celebrations, classes, or meetings.

Cindy Price, Julia Cox, Berenice Yanez, and Sue Bellotti.

Thank you, Reese Murphy for the beautiful piano and organ duet with Sue Bellotti at the Easter Service.



Easter in Collbran



Vacation Bible School 2022

Our 2022 Vacation Bible School is “**MONUMENTAL ~ Celebrating God’s Greatness!**” Monumental VBS is going to be full of Bible adventures, games, music, snacks, high-fives, and science—fun “wows!”

It will be held June 22, 23, 24 from 9:00 AM – Noon with the Kid’s Program of singing and sharing what they have learned on **Sunday, June 26, 10:00AM.**

The focus of our VBS is “Helping kids experience God’s love!”

Bible Points for the week include:

“God loves you no matter what.”

“God is with you everywhere.”

“God is in charge.”

“God is stronger than anything.”

The Songs and Actions are AMAZING!!

“Monumental Love”

“Awesome God”

“God is Always With Us”

“Every Praise”

“You Are in Charge”

“Nothing That Can Separate Me” and more!!



Classes will include Pre-K, Kindergarten, First and Second Grades, Third and Fourth Grades, and Fifth and Sixth Grades. (This applies to the year just completed in the 2021-2022 school year.)



We will need volunteers for teachers, class assistants, helpers, and an Imagination Station teacher. Come and join us!

Help is also needed in the dining room for preparing and serving snacks. Please join us in presenting this amazing VBS program to our local children! **Call Sue Bellotti 970-487-3474 OR Pastor**

Anne 970-433-3385 for additional information.

Planning Meeting will be Friday, May 6, 2022 at 12:00PM Noon in the upstairs meeting room at the church. Please enter at the office door.

Senior Tea

The Women's Fellowship of the Collbran Congregational Church UCC, has provided a "Tea" for graduating seniors of Plateau Valley High School for an unknown number of years. The earliest confirmation of a Senior Tea was 1940. I imagine any event held over 80 years can be called a tradition.

There were years in the 1940s when the young men in the class would be drafted or would enlist to join the US military in World War II, departing shortly after graduation day. During the 1950s, there was the Korean Conflict, and then during the Viet Nam War in the 1960s and early 1970s, the young men were often inducted into the service and departed within days of graduating. Over the years many times a quick wedding took place before the men left for boot camp. High School sweethearts were married within hours of graduation.



Lita Hill attended her Senior Tea in 1964 with her mother, Florence Freeman, an elementary teacher whom many of us had as a 4th grade teacher. Lita also remembers Lou Hill, Allen's grandmother, reminiscing about attending the Senior Tea with her son, Clifford Hill in the spring of 1942. Lita attended the Senior Tea with her sons, Kent, Bert, and Jay. She recalls how each son was hesitant to attend the Senior Tea until they got there and saw that it was, truly, a party to honor the graduates. The food was delicious, plentiful and beautifully served. There was entertainment, as well. She is concerned that today's graduates may have the same concerns because of the unfamiliar title and because there has not been a Tea since 2019.

Sharon Hill wrote: I graduated in 1960 and remember going to the tea. I attended with my Mom and wore a dress, hat and gloves. There was punch, tea sandwiches and dessert, and a program. I know it was an event to look forward to and attend. All three of my children went to the tea. Thanks, Sharon.

Rose (Armour) Turner wrote of attending her 1964 Senior Tea with her grandmother. She writes, "In May 1964, my grandmother, Anna Armour and I received an invitation to the Senior Tea in the mail. This showed me that not only were our families proud of us as graduates but the whole community, as well. This was a formal tea. "I wore a nice dress, white gloves, high heels, and a pill box hat. I think the formal attire helped us realize that we were no longer boys and girls but young gentlemen and young women. Rose said she was later married in the same dress she had worn to the Senior Tea. She has fond memories of Nancy Karlson and all the ladies that carry on this tradition, "I would like to thank you for all of your hard work and caring for the young people of this valley."

Naomi (Benson) Morse said her Senior Tea was on a beautiful, warm spring day in May, 1964. She was a senior at Plateau Valley High School. She and her mother were on their way to her “Senior Tea.” It was so special and it was for seniors and their mothers, only. They were wearing their best dress clothes. The ladies all wore hats and many wore white gloves. The class looked so nice. Many of the boys wore suits. There were tiny cups of nuts and mints at each place and the tiny sandwiches, cookies, and little cakes filled the tea table. She said, “Our class of 1964 had grown up. We were ladies and gentlemen. We were at our Senior Tea and it was a big deal!”

Ethel (Hawkins) Click often spoke of her Senior Tea. The year she graduated, 1941, was early in WWII and some of the senior boys were already enlisted and left very soon after graduation. Her daughters, Evonne Stites and DeDe Walz, attended their Senior Teas, as well as brothers Bill Clark and Dale Click. Ethel’s grandchildren have attended in more recent years. Often three or four generations of a family are in attendance at a Tea.

Mary Lou Ridenour attended with her children, Richie, Mary, Carol, Penny, Bill, and Clancy.

Josie Barnes from 1994 remembers: Mingling at the table of tea cakes, sitting enjoying conversation with our precious community, or googling over the magnificent magician's tricks are all fond memories of my 1994 Senior Tea. Remembering the presence of my Dad and the people I love surrounding me still today brings joy to my heart.



In Memory of Nancy Karlson

The women of the Collbran Congregational Church Women’s Fellowship would like to honor Nancy Karlson for her years of service to the group. Nancy had been a driving force in this church group for over 40 years. She was instrumental in beginning the practice of gifting each student with a New Testament. Graduates from Grand Mesa High School at Collbran Job Corp were invited to join the Tea in the late 1980s. She introduced Dave Wallin, the tableside magician. He has entertained at the Senior Tea for over 30 years. Nancy loved table favors, small gifts, decorating, and setting the Tea Table.

Thank you, Nancy for your gift of yourself, your love, and your dedication.

Sue Bellotti

Women’s Fellowship President

God's Blessing, Nancy Karlson

Nancy Karlson passed away April 5, 2022 at her home.

As her “neighbor across the street,” the Collbran Congregational Church was a part of her life for years, but she touched all of our lives as our “neighbor” in so many ways, as well.

Nancy served as custodian for the church, cleaning and taking care of small maintenance issues. She was always available to lock or unlock doors for events as people used the church. She was also our go-to neighbor when one of us forgot our keys.

She managed scheduling the rental of the building for events as well as renting out tables and chairs. We didn't realize what a job this was until another church member had to take over the responsibility.

She organized and cared for the kitchen and was President of Women's Fellowship for many years. She had the preparation of the Turkey Dinner Fundraiser fine-tuned. When the help arrived, the dining room was warm, the ovens hot, and the coffee made.

She was always ready to call together the church women to prepare and serve funeral dinners. There was always organization. We all knew our place and part in making things run smoothly. There was always a hand written Thank You note in the mail the next week thanking each one for doing their part.

She loved loading goodies into bright plastic eggs for the young children's Easter Egg Hunt in Mother's Park before church on Easter Sunday. She usually purchased the candy and eggs herself.

Nancy loved the Senior Tea. She loved decorating and planning. She was very disappointed when the Party Store closed in Grand Junction. Then she discovered we could order from Oriental Trading and all was well.

She kept an eye on the children playing in Mother's Park. She purchased and often planted the flowers in the large park planter. One of the last things she attended to was to mail money to a friend for this coming summer's plants.

For many years, Nancy seldom missed attending church. As her health began to fail, it became harder for her to come across the street. Her eyes and ears began to cause her problems, but she came to sit in the front pew to join in the service as she could. She loved to pick “Irish” hymns when asked her favorite. Balm of Gilead and Be Thou My Vision were her first choices.

All the community knew Nancy. She always spoke to those she met on the streets. She loved serving on the Friends of the Library Board. She loved books and was an avid reader. She was quick to share a book she had purchased and enjoyed.

Her faith was strong and her love of God filled her life. When visiting with her, sharing a cup of tea and a cookie, or working alongside her, there was never a question she loved her Lord.

God's blessing, Nancy. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. [Matt. 25:21.](#))



THE MUSTARD SEED
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO BOX 160
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**Summer Worship Hours
start June 5, 2022.**



**Worship begins
at 10:00 am.**

**Kokopelli Bells Spring Ring
Sunday, May 15, 2022
4:00 pm**



**First Presbyterian Church
3940 27 1/2 Road,
Grand Junction**