

# Pastor Anne's Message, April 2026

*Greetings to All! Happy Easter! Happy Springtime!*

*I would like to share thoughts about Jesus the Good Shepherd and Abundant Life. The scriptures to read first are Psalm 23 and John 10:1-10.*

## **"Jesus the Good Shepherd and Abundant Life**

Psalm 23 and John 10:1-10, with images of shepherd, gatekeeper, gate, sheep, thieves and bandits are two timely scriptures. They are full of metaphors and each one has something to do with life and life abundant. The metaphor of the gate however, is what gets our attention first.

Jesus says that "he is the gate." Gates open and close. Gates keep sheep in and thieves and bandits out. Gates close to death and open to life. Jesus is the gate that encloses and protects what is of value. Jesus is the gate that opens to pastures of abundance; still waters of abundance; tables of abundance; cups of abundance. "I came," he said, "that they may have life, and have it abundantly."



The abundant life is not about quantity, wealth, success; approval, popularity, security; being number one, or any of the other things we often think it is. How many times have you gotten what you wanted, done what others said you should, or done what was encouraged and rewarded by society; only to discover your own emptiness and poverty of spirit? You may have had it all; but, you do not feel abundance.

The abundant life is a quality of life, not a quantity of stuff. It is about faith, hope, love, goodness and mercy. It is more about compounding value than it is about compounding interest. The abundant life "adds to," compounds and enhances our lives and the lives of others. It refuses to add to the pain of the world. It is life that leads to life, love that leads to love; joy that leads to joy, hope that leads to hope; courage that leads to courage, kindness that leads to kindness, generosity that leads to generosity; and beauty that leads to beauty. It is forgiveness that leads to forgiveness, dignity that leads to dignity, gratitude that leads to gratitude! It is life and more life. Abundance encompasses the deep qualities and values of your life, the things that matter most and give your life meaning, purpose, and value. It is what opens your heart to others.

Even so, the psalmist does not deny that there will be dark valleys along the way. The journey of life sometimes takes you to sickbeds at which you would rather not be. It presents you with challenges that threaten to overwhelm you. The shedding of tears, the breaking of hearts, the feelings of pain are all found on the path where the Shepherd leads you.

Listen to and follow the shepherd. We may decide to let the shepherd's voice guide our lives. I believe that it might change us, our relationships, our community, and the world.

The Lord is our Shepherd and we shall, not want. (Resource: M. Marsh.)

Blessings and a full, abundant life to you!

Pastor Anne

# Trustees Report

Spring is here, no matter how surprised we all are about it. The flowerbed in Mother's Park received some tender loving care in the past month and looks ready for spring. We hesitate to have the water turned on to the sprinklers as there is still a possibility for late freezes.

The Farmer's Market will return to Main Street this summer. We always enjoy having them use Mother's Park.

It is time to start mowing the grass and put the snow shovels away. Thanks to Town of Collbran for the loan of caution cones for the area of the sidewalk that can get covered with heavy snow from the roof. Just haven't needed them more than once this year.

Basketball for elementary children has ended in the gym, so the gym is available for supervised use by parents or groups for basketball or volleyball. Call Julia Cox, 970-487-3750, or Sue Bellotti, 970-208-3902, if you would like to use the gym.

Trustees are once again working toward getting the exterior of the church washed.

Trustees: S Bellotti, J. Cox, M. Loftus, T. Evans

## Christian Education

The Lasagna Take-out Dinner Fundraiser took place Friday, March 20, 2026. We served 110 meals and raised money that will go toward Vacation Bible School and Christian Education.

Thank you to the church and valley women who stepped in to prepare and serve the meal. These wonderful women make this event possible. The donations of freshly baked cakes provide a delicious dessert.

We appreciate the generous support of the people of the valley for this fundraiser. Your participation makes these programs possible. Thank You!

Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for June 24, 25, and 26, from 9 am to Noon. Friday will close with the program and picnic lunch. Mark your calendars.

# Senior Tea

The Senior Tea is Tuesday, April 28, after school ends for the day. All 2026 graduating seniors and their parents are invited to attend. If you know of a home-schooled graduate, please let us know so we can invite them to the Tea. This is a long standing tradition for Plateau Valley Seniors. We look forward to celebrating graduation with this year's class.

## Spring Celebrations



Newlyweds, Jesse and Cortnie Klingler, February 3, 2026



The Collbran congregation and Pastor Anne celebrated their 10th anniversary together, March 8.

Christian Ed members THE MUSTARD SEED  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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# *Easter Week Celebrations*

Palm Sunday Service, March 29, 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal, April 2, 5:30 pm

Easter Service, April 5, 10:00 am

The Stewards and Women's Fellowship will be preparing and serving a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday. It will be served to anyone who would like to attend in the church dining room beginning at 5:30 pm. This meal follows a traditional format with readings and songs. If you have never attended and would like to understand more about the Seder, please know you are welcome to come eat with us.