

Pastor Anne's Message, August 2026

What Seeds Have You Sown Today?

Scripture Reference: Matthew 13: 1-9

Who is the Sower? God? Yes. Jesus? Yes. These are the usual answers and they are certainly right. God is always sowing God's life in ours. We are created in the image of God and according to God's likeness. The kingdom of God is within you. Our prayers are often a request or desire for the Divine Sower to spread some seed. Our thanksgivings are a recognition of God's sowing in our lives. There are thousands of ways in which God, in and through Jesus, share Himself with us, sows God's life in us. Yes, God and Jesus are Sowers of Seed.



So here is what I am wondering. Might you and I be Sowers of Seed? When we hear or read this parable, we are pretty quick to judge ourselves or others as one of the four types of ground: the beaten path, the rocky ground, thorny terrain, or good soil. But have you ever thought of yourself as the Sower in Jesus' parable in Matthew 13?

Have you ever had someone show up at just the right time and say or do exactly what you needed? And you knew it was not calculated; there was no end game for him or her? They were sowing seeds. They were simply being themselves and seeded your life because they are a Sower. By the same token, you've probably had the experience of someone saying to you, "You remember when you said or did...? How did you know that was exactly what I needed?" You didn't plan it. You were just sowing the seeds of your life. You were a Sower to that person.

All our lives we are sowing seeds and often we don't even know it. The Sower sows because that is who she or he is. We sow because we are Sowers. Sowing is simply our way of being and living, the way we engage the world and relate to others. It is the practice that shapes and forms who we are

becoming. The seeds we sow reflect what is going on within us and who we are. We can only sow seeds that were first sown and cultivated within us. Sowing is an interior practice before it is ever an exterior action.

Jesus sows in us "the Word of the Kingdom." That Word IS: Love, peace, hope, joy, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, beauty, wisdom, presence, and encouragement. It is also perseverance, courage, gentleness, wholeness, and healing. Add on reconciliation, integrity, and authenticity. And the list goes on and on. They are the kind of things that once we experience them, we cannot keep them to ourselves. They sprout and grow within us, and we seed the world.

There are times in our lives when we may feel as if new life cannot take root. Sometimes when the going gets tough, we don't feel the depth of life as we normally would feel. We feel like we are living on the surface only.

This is telling us something. Our "Land" needs to be cleared! There is work to be done. What rocks fill the soil of your life? When this happens, we need to try to weed the garden that is our life. And then we can look forward to those wonderful times when our life is fertile, open, receptive, rich in nutrients, flowering, flourishing and fruitful. The seeds within us yield so much and this is a time to celebrate. And there is no need to be critical of the four types of ground. All four types of ground need attention and care whether it be plowing to a new depth, clearing the land, weeding, watering, or fertilizing. I don't know off hand what the land of your life might need, but I'll bet that you do. And the truth is, all four "grounds" describe parts of ourselves. The condition of the soil does not, however, stop the Sower. Even though the Sower sows with reckless and indiscriminate generosity, without regard as to where the seed may land, the Sower sows because of who the Sower is, not the ground upon which it will land.

So, think about where and with whom we sow. In what ways have we withheld seed because we deemed the ground unworthy? What would it take for us to be as generous as the Sower in Matthew's gospel?

God does not want us to worry about the yield of the harvest of the sowing we do for him. There is no need to keep score or measure how, what, or when you sow.

Finally, the Sower is not concerned about whether there is or will be enough seed. Life, creation, the world, the universe – however we identify this existence - is a "divine seed market." There is more than enough. And the deepest and most gracious response to there being enough, is to sow with generosity.

I wish for you generous and joyous 'Sowing' in the beautiful, fertile field that is your life!

Blessings in August and always ~

Pastor Anne

Trustees Report

The Trustees have continued with small repairs needed around the building. Building rental agreements have been discussed as a new proposal has been presented to them. Continued use of the building is needed to support the maintenance and repairs that are always needed. School will begin mid-August and youth sports will again need practice space. We appreciate the community's use of the building and the respect that is shown by the participants.

June saw Friday dance classes for young children. They were led by Reese and Julia Murphy with the assistance of their dance instructors from Grand Junction.

Some locks have been changed and the storeroom on the main floor cleaned and rearranged. Cooler weather may see the Trustees finally taking a tour of the Scout Room, Boy Scout Room, 4-H Room, or the storage room, (whatever you choose to call it), in the basement to discuss its restoration, hopefully to make its space more welcoming and storage areas more efficient. The task seems a little daunting, so it isn't one we have jumped right in to fix.

The flowerbed in the park is looking good this summer. It is a real summer for the grass and weeds to grow among the flowers but with all hands stopping by to pull a few handfuls when time allows it remains a happy bright place in Mother's Park.

We want to thank Amanda for filling in as custodian while Emily was favoring her broken ankle, and we welcomed Emily back this past month. These young women are a real asset in keeping the building swept and dusted. Thanks to both of you!!

Trustees: Mike Loftus, Julia Cox, Tilda Evans, and Sue Bellotti

Becoming a Nurse

Becoming a nurse has been one of the biggest dreams in my life, and the journey has not been easy, but it has been worth every sacrifice. There have been long days at work, late nights studying, tears, stress, and moments when I felt tired and overwhelmed. But through it all, I never gave up because deep in my heart, I know this is where God is leading me.



Working as a CNA has changed me in so many ways. It has taught me compassion, patience, and how important it is to simply be there for someone during their hardest moments. Every patient I care for reminds me why I keep pushing forward.

There were times when balancing family, work, school, and life felt impossible, but my family, my friends, and my community have been such an important part of this journey. Their support, encouragement, prayers, and belief in me have meant more than words can explain. Knowing I am surrounded by people who cheer me on gives me strength during the hard days and reminds me that I am not doing this alone.

I want to become a nurse not only to help heal people, but to make them feel seen, safe, and cared for when they need it most.

Sometimes I look back and realize how far I've already come, and even though I still have more steps ahead

of me, I'm proud of myself for not quitting. This journey is building me into the nurse and the person I am meant to be.

Berenice Yanez

Women's Fellowship

Women Fellowship will meet September 15 at 10 AM in the Dining Room to do a light cleaning and count supplies needed for the Turkey Dinner in November. The Turkey Dinner will fall on November 14, this year. We have been shopping for more efficient serving trays to present the meal in a much neater manner. We feel we have let our guests down when the dinners couldn't arrive home after pick-up, without looking like it had all been stirred. Things will be different this year. The grocery list will be reviewed and purchases arranged in October to be ready for November. We will be asking for help closer to the event.

Sue Bellotti, Women's Fellowship President

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

AUGUST 2026

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

Editor: Tilda Evans, lewtildaevans@gmail.com



Fathers recognized on Father's Day