

Pastor Anne's Message, June 2026

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

Scripture: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, and John 14:1-14

In the New Testament, the Gospel of John (Chapters 14-17) are known as the "Farewell Discourse." This was given by Jesus to eleven of his disciples, immediately after the conclusion of the Last Supper in Jerusalem, the night before his crucifixion. First, Jesus tells the disciples that he will be "going away to the Father," and that he will send the Holy Spirit to guide the disciples. Jesus bestows peace on the disciples and commands them to love one another. The disciples want to cling to the perceived safety of "location" – they want to know where Jesus is going and how to go there with him.



Grayson Weirich receiving his first Bible with brothers Connor and Roosevelt

Throughout the gospel of John, location is used as a metaphor for the personal tie of a close relationship. The sheep are kept close to the shepherd; Jesus is next to the heart of God. As they are sitting in the room sharing the meal, Jesus attempts to assure them that there will be a place with plenty of rooms for them; the relationship is going to continue, even as it changes. They will not be forgotten. Jesus' command, "Do not let your hearts be troubled," is a direction to the disciples' courage. It is a command to stand firm, even when their hearts abandon them. This segment closes by turning to the future. Because Jesus is going to the Father, the disciples are to pray with confidence that they will be heard.

"Do not let your heart be troubled." You may be thinking, "That's easy for you to say!!" There's so much to be potentially troubled about: wars, crime, violence, confusion, and economic pressure...if you weren't feeling troubled, you might be now! Or perhaps what is on your heart is not based upon national or international scenarios. Your worry or fear may be intensely personal. Perhaps you are faced with the loss of a loved one, less income, loneliness, and grief. You may be a student standing on the horizon of the future wondering what direction to go. Or perhaps you're dealing with chronic health problems, and you are facing decisions regarding treatments and side effects. Or, if not you personally, we likely all know someone who is experiencing a difficult time or chapter in his or her life. Today, if your heart is troubled and you are feeling confused, concerned and overwhelmed, you are in good company!! In John 14, Jesus' disciples felt the very same way. At the ripe young age of thirty-three, their Lord is leaving them. The disciples were not expecting this. They were counting on Jesus being around for a very long time. They were anticipating Jesus to set them free from Roman oppressions, and they were preparing to rule and reign with Him. Now it finally begins to dawn on them that Jesus is going to die, and their hearts are heavy and deeply troubled.

Fortunately, Jesus addresses His disciples' heart trouble with some heart-to-heart words. He says to them and to us: "Believing leads to seeing." He says to them "believe in God, believe also in Me." "You must believe that I will never leave you. You must believe I will never stop praying for you. You must believe in the comfort of the Holy Spirit that I will give you." Jesus clearly says that there are already many dwelling places in heaven. The Father's house is prepared completely for us. And space and place will be made for us in our Earthly life as well!

In that Upper Room, this discussion in the midst of trouble and anxiety is Jesus saying – *"As difficult as your troubles and trials are right now, please know that the church IS going to accomplish God's Earthly promises and eternal purposes, too."* If you are feeling discouraged and overwhelmed, observe the kingdom work of the church. The church is touching lives not only in this country, but in other countries, and throughout the world. Our troubles are momentary. God assures us that as we take our eyes off our own troubles and focus on Christ's work in His church, we will be strengthened.

What do you want God to accomplish in and through you for the sake of His kingdom? His Kingdom means our brothers and sisters, our neighbors and families, our friends. *What are the greater works which God has asked of you and sent to you to bring about? Do you have a vision to dream big dreams for Him?* Do you have faith to pursue God sized goals? If so, God is yearning to answer your prayers because your prayers are all about His kingdom and His glory. It's true. Believing does lead to seeing. It is Jesus saying to you and me: "You've got this. You can do this." For I am with you, always. Amen.

Dear Friends and Church Family,
Enjoy this most beautiful season of Spring!

Our Vacation Bible School will be "Rainforest Falls!" June 24, 25, 26 from 9:00 am to noon.

Peace be with you.
In Christ,

Pastor Anne

Trustees Report

The Trustees managed projects around the church this past month.

Patrick Bruin of PB Paint and More washed the whole building, knocking down cobwebs and a few years of dirt. He reattached weak spots in the siding, secured the gutters, and tightened screws on the edge of the metal roof. He did a great job for us.

Summer dance classes for children will be held in June with student teachers from Reverent Rhythms. Contact: (970) 812-3584, if interested in enrolling your child.

The flowerbed in Mothers Park is receiving tender loving care this summer from a church family. It looks wonderful. Lawncare has resumed, as well, thanks to Robert.

The Butterfly Release went off smoothly on Memorial Day. Joyce Chicos and her crew did an amazing job. Support for the PV Cancer Fund provides much needed services to so many in our valley. We love to see the park busy with events like this, family parties and picnics, or as a restful getaway.

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

New Members



This spring, the church welcomed two groups of new members. On March 29, we welcomed Sheila and Kevin Brooks, Ceola McDonough, and Jane and Butch McKune. On May 17, we welcomed Barb and Dave Birtch, Caleb White, and Alyson, Jake, Grayson, Connor, and Roosevelt Weirich. We are so glad all of you have joined our congregation family.

Special Devotion

Bible Verse: Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24 NIV

We've all prayed prayers that seem to go unanswered, which can make it difficult to fully accept and put into practice the Bible verse. We may feel that our prayers haven't been answered when we don't get the results we want within the timeline we expect. However, I have found a new way to pray, inspired by Jesus' words in the Gospel of Mark. Previously when I prayed, I'd picture the person I was praying for, with their current troubles- whether sickness, grief, relationship difficulty, or financial woes- and ask God to help with their needs. Now I begin with asking God to grant the person what they need, and then I thank God for hearing my prayer, trusting that He is at work to fulfill the need in His time and way.

When I pray like this, I can more easily picture the person I'm praying for as being healed, comforted in their grief, or freed from their difficulty. Maybe picturing the person with their prayer answered is what Jesus meant when He said, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours". This new way of praying has strengthened my faith and fills me with joyful expectation. God hears our prayers and will answer them in the way and time that is best.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for hearing our prayers. Help us to trust that you love us deeply and will always meet our needs. In Jesus' name, Amen.

From Upper Room Daily Devotional for May 31, 2026.

Women's Fellowship

The Senior Tea for 2026 high school graduates and their parents was held April 29th in the Collbran Congregational Dining Room.

There was a smaller number of graduates this year which included thirteen from Plateau Valley High School and three from Grand Mesa High School, but it was a joyous event, celebrating the accomplishments of these young adults.



Pastor Anne opened the Tea by announcing each by name and presenting the student with a Bible. After her invocation, the guests enjoyed the wonderful food provided by Women's Fellowship members and ladies of the church.

Dave Wallin, a talented tableside magician, who has entertained our graduates for many years provided magic and illusion which kept everyone mystified and engaged.

Present were Bill and Naomi Morse, graduates from 1964 who attended the Tea with their son, Travis, a 1996 graduate, and his daughter, Lily, as a 2026 grad. It is always special to have multiple generations in attendance, who attended a Senior Tea of their own.

The Senior Tea has been a long time event given by women of the Congregational Church since as far back as 1940.

Congratulations graduates!

Sue Bellotti, Women's Fellowship President

THE MUSTARD SEED
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
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Vacation Bible School



Collbran Congregational Church
2003 High Street
June 24, 25, 26 9am to Noon
Registration starts at 8:30 am
Ages 3-13

Contact Sue Bellotti, (970) 208-3902, for more information