Pastor Anne's Message, October 2026

Welcome Autumn! Hello Everyone!



As we enjoy the beautiful colors of leaves all around us, we are reminded that nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives. Autumn is a time for "letting go" and releasing things that have been a burden to us. Fall is an ideal time to practice getting out of the way and letting God (Spirit) take charge of our lives. Author James Hillman challenges us to learn from actors about this: In his book Kinds of Power, Hillman writes: "For what the actor tries to achieve on stage is to 'get out of the way' so that the character he or she is portraying can fully emerge. So, too, the writer and the painter; they have to 'get out of the way' of the flow of their work and put it onto paper or canvas.

In Loving-Kindness, Sharon Saltzberg writes about one of the offshoots of letting go: "Generosity has such power because it is characterized by the inner quality of letting go or relinquishing. Being able to let go, to give up, to renounce and to give generously – these characteristics spring from the same source within us."

Fall, then, is an excellent season to give generously of our time and talents to friends, family, neighbors, and others we are blessed to meet. All the best to you in this pursuit!

Our Collbran Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is one of eleven churches in the Western Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ. Clergy, delegates, and guests attend the Western Association Fall Gathering/Meeting every October. This year it was our turn to host this event in Collbran. I am currently serving a two year term as the Western Association Moderator.

We met to connect, worship, share in fellowship, share meals and hold a business meeting. The Women's Fellowship, members, and friends prepared the meals, refreshments, and a sack lunch at the close of the two-day meeting. The eleven churches are in Silverton, Crested Butte, Montrose (2 churches), Grand Junction, Hayden, Craig, Collbran, Nucla, Gunnison, and Ridgway.

The Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ has a total of 70 churches in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.

Blessings to you this season and always! Be well.

Pastor Anne



Trustees Report

TRUSTEES REPORT

The glass was replaced in the window of the dining room that was broken by a startled fawn last month. Use of the dining room seems to be increasing as the cooler fall weather moves in on us.

A plaque is being designed to be placed on the back of the renovated sign in front of the church. Memorial funds were used to rebuild and restore the sign.

Caleb White has taken on the responsibility for lawn care as Robert Salamanca has stepped away for family responsibilities. Caleb will continue into the winter months with snow removal.

Thanks to Becky Sheely for pruning the shrubs around the sanctuary. The sprinkler system has been blown out this month. Thanks to Tom Bieser for this service.

Dance classes are being held on Monday afternoons under the direction of Reverent Rhythms with instruction by Julia and Reese Murphy. Basketball will begin soon. If you are interested in using the gym, please contact Julia Cox, 970-487-3750, or Sue Bellotti, 970-208-3902, for information and scheduling.

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



Music Report

There has been new interest by musicians in the congregation which we are looking forward to for the winter. As the new ideas develop, I will keep you informed.

We always enjoy vocal performances by Butch McKune. These are special Sunday services when he brings his music and voice into our midst.

I appreciate these musicians offering to share their talents with everyone and make a joyful noise to our Lord.

Christmas music is being practiced and there may be an opportunity for new, inexperienced musicians to play for services during the month of December. I am happy to assist anyone who might like to sing or play for a very appreciative audience.

Sue Bellotti Music Director

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship met in September to begin planning meals for the Western Association which was served Oct. 9th and 10th.

We gathered and reviewed lists for the Annual Turkey Dinner which will be held Nov. 14, 2026. If anyone would like to bake an Apple, Pumpkin, or Pecan Pie for the event, please let us know. They are greatly appreciated.

Friday, November 13, will be a day to prepare for the meal which will be ready for November 14. The cost will remain at $15.00 per meal with a rate of $50.00 for families of 4 or more immediate members.

Toffee will be for sale for $15.00 per ½ pound. Cindy Price Melendy is stocking up to prepare her amazing almond toffee. Don't miss out.

After being disappointed with the Take-out containers that were used in the past two years, we have changed the container for a stronger product with a much better lid to prevent the boxes from opening in the bags before you get home. These containers are recyclable, microwave safe, and can be used multiple times. Please let us know if you find that your dinner arrives at your table in a much neater, safer way. We would appreciate your feedback.

The group will meet again November 10 at 10:00 am in the meeting room at the church to finalize Turkey Dinner plans. See you there.

Women's Fellowship President, Sue Bellotti

2026 ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

Fundraiser For Women's Fellowship and Congregational Church UCC
2003 High Street in Church Dining Room

TAKE OUT ONLY

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

Serving from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

TAKE OUT ONLY

$15.00 per meal, $50.00 for immediate family of 4 or more

Reservations required. Order ahead by calling

Julia Cox, 970-487-3750, or Sue Bellotti, 970-208-3902

If necessary, please leave message with name, phone number, number of dinners

Payment is due when picked up

Gluten free option available

Local delivery available if needed





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

OCTOBER 2026

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Fall back an hour, October 31