

The "10585"



2016 Hanging of the Greens

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From the Pastor's Desk...

Hello, Wonderful People of Church in the Wildwood!

It's December already, and we're well into our Advent and Christmas events. The place looks great, doesn't it? Many thanks to the crew of 16 or so who gathered on November 26 to "hang the greens" and improve the sound quality in the Sanctuary. We are all set for this joyous season!

You will read about all of the other special things we're doing, on the other pages of this newsletter, so I want to focus on the concept of membership. Jeff Chapman, our moderator, announced on November 27 during worship, that the 2017 Membership Affirmation cards and the Giving Covenant cards are now available for you to complete.

I love this church's approach to membership. In most churches, when you become a member, you're a member for life, or until you withdraw or transfer. The result of this is that every ten years or so, church clerks go into panic "clean up the rolls" mode when they realize there are people on the membership list that no one has seen or heard from in years, and even their contact info in the directory is obsolete. It becomes a big, time-consuming project to update the records to accurately reflect who really is a part of the church.

Here, every member is offered the opportunity to "renew" their membership--to reaffirm their desire and commitment to be a vital part of this body of believers. It keeps things fresh, and it keeps things current. And it keeps membership on our radar, so that when new people become part of what we're doing, we can offer them this step as a further expression that they personally embrace our mission.

Nathan and I became members of this congregation on October 23, our first Sunday with you. We have already now signed and returned our 2017 Membership Affirmation cards, because we are "all in." We love this congregation and its special way of bringing God's realm to this community. Have you? Are you? Do you? Let's do this, together! We would love to have your completed Membership Affirmation cards by Christmas Day, if possible. Consider it a Christmas present to yourself, to God, and to your church community.

Advent peace to you and your families,
Pastor Diane

Team Talk

The Administration Team met on November 30, 2016. Members of the Team present were Newman McAllister, Sunde King and Marsha Soyka. Jeff Chapman, Rebecca Wujcik and Pastor Diane Martin also attended. John Schwabe was excused. Newman gave the reflection.

The minutes from the October 26, 2016, meeting were approved without change. The financial report was reviewed. Income exceeded expenses by \$3,557 through October. The team approved obtaining a Sam's Club membership for the church with the \$45 cost to be paid by the Sallie Bush Community Building.

Rebecca reported that the septic tank will be pumped prior to Christmas. The church uses Waste Management for trash service. The team approved switching to lower cost Teller County Trash beginning January 1. The post office boxes that were formerly in the Pastor's study will be presented for silent auction along with the long table now in the bookkeeper's office, should one desire the set. Newman will pursue finding a person to clear the church sidewalks and walkway of snow. Marsha will investigate whether there can be a programmable thermostat that controls the heat in the two offices. The organ needs repair and someone to repair the carillon bells will also be sought. Newman will contact Bob Patchell about installing a small window in the door to the Pastor's study. There are several bulbs out in the choir loft and three halogen types out that illuminate the altar. Newman will pursue. Jeff reported that the four spotlights that illuminate the stained glass windows in the narthex have been repeatedly replaced but always blow out. An electrician may be required. The door leading to the porch in Tatter Hall has large gaps below and around the frame. Newman will purchase weather stripping. Pastor Diane and Rebecca will reformat the church directory, perhaps with photographs.

The Christmas Eve offerings will continue to be paid to the UCC Christmas Fund, to benefit retired ministers. Raises for staff, other than Pastor Diane, were discussed. All existing team members and officers are willing to serve again in 2017, except for John Schwabe. A congregational meeting will be set for January.

Pastor Diane reported that she has developed a visitor information and prayer request card. The team agreed that the red sign-in books in the pews should be removed because they are rarely completed. She also reported extensively on her many activities since the October meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next Team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, at 4:45 p.m.



Muriel is collecting Jello for our Wildwood Food Pantry for Christmas. If you would like to donate or help please contact the office or Muriel Dunkley.



MOMENTS

If I had my life to live over,
I'd try to make more mistakes next time.
I would relax.
I would limber up.
I would be sillier than I ever have been.
I know of few things I would take seriously.
I would be crazier.
I would take more chances.
I would take more trips.
I would climb more mountains,
swim more rivers and watch more sunsets.
I would have more actual problems and few
imaginary ones.
I have had my moments, and if I had it to do over
again, I'd have more of them.
In fact, I'd have nothing else.
Just moments, one after another instead of living
so many years ahead of each day.
I would go places and do things and travel lighter
than I have.
I would stand barefoot earlier in the spring
and stay that way later in the fall.
I would succeed by accident.
I would ride on more merry-go-rounds.
I would pick more daisies.
I would meet more people and hold more hands.
I would meet you earlier and know you longer.
I would love you better.
Perhaps it's not too late

Anonymous

ScoutScope

Cub Scout Pack 33 has 23 boys and was selected by the BSA national organization as one of ten local units to participate in a pilot program, adding kindergarten age boys to the pack. There are now four Lion cubs. The Bobcats were promoted to Tiger scouts in November. The Christmas tree in Tatter Hall will be decorated on December 5. The pack is on track to achieve the Gold Level Path to Excellence this year at the recharter program on December 15. The pack participated as the color and honor guard at the Veterans Day program at Ute Pass Elementary on November 11. Jonathan Dooley, the Cubmaster, invites any church member to visit a pack meeting. They begin at 6:00 on any Monday evening when school is in session.

Wildwood Food Pantry

The remaining Wildwood Food Pantry dates this year are: Dec. 13, and Dec. 27 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Meals are served until 7:30 p.m. Please contact Craig at (761-0484) or the church office (684-9427) if you can help.

Thank you for your loyal support and contributions to the food pantry. We could definitely use a few more volunteers to help cook a meal!!

We can always use any non-perishable food. You are always welcome to join us for the weekly dinner, whether you need food assistance or not.

We would also appreciate one or two more people helping us to better serve and support our guests - this need not be a weekly commitment. Please contact the church if you can assist in greeting our guests, serving or cooking the dinner, or putting together boxes of food.

You can also help by getting the word out in the community that we offer this service to our neighbors.

The pantry can always use the following items:

- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Macaroni and cheese
- Dry cereal
- Soup
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned fruit
- Canned tuna or meat



Advent Scripture and Reflection Group

Tuesdays (Dec. 6, 13, 20), 4:30-5:45 p.m.

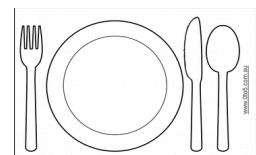
Co-facilitated by Jane Scanlon and Pastor Diane, with lectio divina, silent meditation, and open conversation on the scriptures on which each of the Advent themes is based. Meet us in the Sanctuary.

Children & Youth Christmas Program Rehearsals

In the Christmas program on December 18, our children and youth will tell us the stories of two people we celebrate at Christmas time! The program will be a scripted conversation between the kids, and they don't need to memorize their lines. They'll be singing parts of four songs they probably already know. Parents, please try to get your children and youth here for as many practices as possible, because we promise it will be a lot of fun! See Pastor Diane for more information.

Hospitality Team

During December we will not have our monthly potluck lunch due to the holiday schedule. We hope you will join us on January 29 for potluck. The Hospitality team could use a few more people to assist with monthly potlucks and similar events. If you have any questions contact Craig at 761-0484.



Choir News

Our bell choir will perform on Sunday December 18.

Our choirs are open to any and all who are interested in making a joyful noise to God. As I stand in the front each Sunday I hear the glorious sound you all make and it warms my heart. As many of you have said, "It is amazing how much beautiful music is made by so few people in the choirs." Just think how much more beautiful the choir would be with your voice. Don't be concerned if you can't read music; we will help teach you. Don't worry about your voice not being strong enough, loud enough, whatever enough. Remember when we were reminded The Master is listening. You know what the Master is listening to? The voice that was given specifically to you. When you sing...no matter what you hear...God hears perfection.

The UCC has a motto "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." That goes for the choir too! Come join us on Wednesday nights for practice and then on Sunday mornings to praise and glorify God through music. If you want to, you may come the Wednesday before the Sunday you want to sing, even if you only have one week a month to perform. If you want to learn to ring the bells you would need to come to more practices but with those additional practices I think you would find it fun. Practices are held Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for bells, and 7:00 p.m. for choir.

Music is a great and glorious gift from God - come share your gift from God with us.

~ Mary McInnis Balin, Music Director

The Southeastern Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference

Invites you to an
Ecclesiastical Council
for
Member in Discernment

Jeffrey A. Dodson

Sunday, January 8, 2017
3:00 p.m.

In the sanctuary of First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs
20 E. St. Vrain
Colorado Springs

All members with standing in the Southeastern Association (SEA) and Lay Delegates from every member church in SEA are encouraged to attend and offer support to this candidate as he seeks ordination, pending a call, to serve in the United Church of Christ.



Stand for Standing Rock

Finding that Ground

A presentation (skype from Standing Rock) and discussion with

Father John Floberg

John Floberg has served 25 years as the supervising priest of the Episcopal Churches of the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota.

Father Floberg's presentation will focus on the conflict surrounding the construction of the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline under Lake Oahe/Missouri River near the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota.

Where: Mountain View United Methodist Church

1101 Rampart Range Road, Woodland Park, CO

Date & Time: Thursday, December 8th, 7:00- 8:30 PM

For further information, contact Mel at 406-253-1832.

We are always in need of volunteers to help host coffee hour. Please contact the office if you would like to help!

Spanish Classes

Lolita has resumed teaching Spanish classes. She has room in the Thursday class. They meet every Thursday afternoon or evening. (Ages 10 thru adult) Please contact Lolita at 719-687-4408 if you would like to join or if you need more information. A donation of \$5 per session is appreciated.

Yoga Classes

Diane Kremer is teaching Hatha Yoga class. They meet every Wednesday from 10:15-11:30 am upstairs in fellowship hall. Please contact the office for additional information. A donation of \$5 per session is appreciated.

Important December Dates

Birthdays....

John Schwabe	Dec 5
Miriam	Dec 18
Zachary	Dec 21

**Children's Program &
Bell Choir Performance
Christmas Eve Services**

**Dec 18
Dec 24
5p.m. & 11p.m.**

Christmas Day Worship

**Dec 25
10:30 a.m.**

Attendance Offering

November 6	32	\$1363
November 13	45	\$887
November 20	32	\$596
November 27	52	\$739

ACH (online giving) \$850

**Month to Date
Offering \$4435**

**Anticipated
Expenses \$10600**

Prayer Requests

Muriel Dunkley, Vaughn Drinen, Dave Erem, The Chapman Family, Russell Helm (Rebecca Janecek's brother), Agnes, Beeper Smith, Bobbie and Gerry Brazier, and Millicent Ramsay.



Pastor: Rev. Diane Martin
Bookkeeper: Sunde King
Custodian: Lolita Hilbert
Nursery Attendant: MaryAnn Davis
Music Director: Mary Balin
Accompanist: Rebecca Janecek
Administrator: Rebecca Wujcik
Ministers: All God's People