

## Resurrection: Making Memories by Clare Twomey

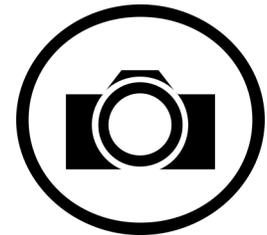
I feel as though we have been teased lately with the unseasonal warm days that have snuck in between snow and subzero winds. The warmth of the sun reminding us of those balmy days yet to be a part of our daily expectations. And as that big orange ball offers a gentle kiss on your bare arms, you can watch as your skin changes from dreadful pallor to a color of pure life and energy in a matter of seconds! The anticipation of spring; those days that carry with them the light fragrance of new grass, daffodils and BBQ. Those days, that if you try hard enough, you get a whiff of ozone, reminding us of spring showers and soon to be blooming flowers. Close your eyes, imagine, and you're almost there...

HA! But no, not quite yet! Cruelty prevails, the cold of winter continues to rear its wicked blustery head, just as we are being lulled into a sense of springtime complacency. A little snow here. A cloudy, windy day there. So sneaky and so not finished with us yet. And you know the kind of wind I mean: it freezes your buggers right up in your nose; it catches your breath in mid-sentence, freezing your tongue to the roof of your mouth and making you think you've lost your ability to share a coherent thought; and let's not forget that stinging feeling, or lack thereof, where your skin prickles and cracks right in front of your eyes as you try to walk the dog!!

Ok, so I might be exaggerating just a bit, but so what if I'm been a bit dramatic. Drama is, well dramatic!

*Continued on page 3.*

**Coming up – Sunday April 24th immediately following the worship service.**



Potluck and Picture Show.

This will be a time to celebrate Vista Grande UCC through pictures. **We'll need your help.** If you took pictures of people, worship enhancements, activities, etc during the 2015 year, please send them to Donna. If you have lots, it may be easier to put them on a flash drive and it will be returned to you.

**Inside this issue:**

General Information	2
Pastor's Article	3
Worship/Stewardship	4
Faith Formation	5
Mission	6-7
Membership	8
Wider Church	9

**Special points of interest:**

- Adult education 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Children's Faith Formation 10:00 a.m.

## Conference Minister Search Announcement



***Having sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit, reflected on all the feedback we received, discerned the needs of our Conference, and heard your hope for bold leadership in this time of great shift taking place within the church, the Board of Directors and the Search Committee are excited to share with you our joint nomination of the Rev. Sue Artt as our Conference Minister.***

So begins the letter sent out to the RMC on February 1 by the Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Directors and Conference Minister Search Committee as they jointly announced the Conference Minister nomination. Rev. Artt currently serving as Acting Conference Minister and, pending confirmation, will become the "Settled Conference Minister" at the RMC Annual meeting June 9th -12th in Salt Lake City.

Please read the full text of this announcement letter posted on the bulletin board at church.

Vista Grande Community UCC is an Open and Affirming Church.

"We, the congregation of Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ in Colorado Springs, CO declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. We strive to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, marital status, family make-up, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socio-economic status. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation's life in Christ.

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."**

### **Pastor's Hours**

Pastor Clare is in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The hours are flexible.

If you'd like to meet with Clare, please call her at **719-351-0168**.

### **Our Staff**

Pastor—Rev Clare Twomey

Music Director—Dixie Shipp-Napier

Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

Nursery Attendant—Dena Morris

### 2016 Steering Committee consists of

Moderator – Erin Elkaim; Assistant Moderator – Jacque Bechthold-Blueitt; Treasurer – Nancy Morlock-Hollins; Financial Secretary – Jeannie Harrington; Clerk – Dawn Bechthold-Blueitt; Members-at-Large – Phil Puterbaugh and Deborah Tinsley

If you are interested in what gets discussed or planned at these meetings, read the minutes which are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Minutes are posted monthly. Also, you'll find the Income/Expense report, too.

## **Resurrection: Making Memories by Clare Twomey**

### ***Continued from page 1.***

---

I am betting that, whether you are someone who loves the cold or the promise of spring, there is at least one descriptor in the above tangent that speaks to you. The memory of a smell, of a feeling on your skin or even up your nose! You may remember the touch of the grass beneath your feet, or a memory when family joined for a tasty picnic, or a strenuous hike, or a painful sunburn. The reason you can relate to a statement or two is not because I am a brilliant writer (or maybe it's because of that too!). Rather, it's because you have a memory of something that is brought into your consciousness when you read these words. Memory and expectations are what bring these thoughts alive for you. It's ironic then, when we come to such a High Holy season in our faith tradition we tend to rely on the memories or the expectations of others. It's as if year after year we stand at the window watching the actors in front of us. We can't really see them; we can't smell the smells or hear the sounds; we don't know what they feel either physically or emotionally. We only have a picture of others' experiences and we are supposed to take those experiences at face value, base our entire faith upon them, and worship the God that those actors are worshipping. Huh. It sounds so bland. So second hand, so boring...

When we get caught up in a faith that is stagnant we depend on the imagination and the memories of others to fulfill our desires, our desires to be in relationship with our Beloved. Imagine, that in order to be in an intimate relationship with your soul mate or best friend, it requires that another human be the perpetual go between the two of you. Imagine, if you will, that any emotion you shared with that special other was only experienced by the translator who then shared their experience and all you got was their interpretation. You never got to talk with that special other, touch them, hear their voice or smell their skin. You never got to yell when you were angry, or cry when you were sad, or hold or beheld in comfort.

This is a crazy example isn't it? Difficult to wrap your head around it! And yet when we listen to the stories of our sacred scripture without joining in the story, with accepting the invitation into being in relationship with our Beloved, that is exactly what can happen.

Jesus' entire message and mission was to invite us all into an intimate relationship with our Beloved. He wanted to share with us what it meant to feel, smell, touch, experience firsthand, our God. Instead, the temptation has been to allow others to define for us what this relationship should look like. Someone else tells us how God feels about us and what we need to do to be in our Beloved's good graces. We have been discouraged to ask questions of, to relate to, be held by, and to be loved by our Creator. Jesus' entire life was about inviting us to be an active part of this Divine mystery and to form our own memories of that relationship, based on our experiences of God, individually and in community.

As we enter into a change of seasons and a season of Resurrection, we need to allow ourselves to be actively engaged in making memories and sharing experiences with our Beloved. Memories that we will have over our lifetime that will sustain us, remind us of our Beloved, engage us in what it means to be a participant and not someone trying to be faithful, based on the memories of others.

Resurrection allows us to be part of the relationship. Part of the greater story. It gives us memories of what it means to be a part of our Beloved's creation.

**Worship—**

- March 6**      **Coming Home**                      **Luke 15:1-3; 11b – 32**  
**March 13**    **Extravagant Love**                      **John 12: 1-8**  
**March 20**    **Palm Sunday: The Real Passion of Christ**  
**March 24**    **Maundy Thursday Into the Quiet**  
**March 27**    **Easter: Risk, Recklessness, and Resurrection**

**Spring Forward – Change Clocks for March 13**



**March 20**  
**Palm Sunday**

**March 24**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
Theme—Into the Quiet  
Service at 6 p.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Calling for plastic Easter eggs and/or goodies to put inside; preferably already stuffed. Place your donations in the basket in the kitchen. Thank you!!

---

**Women’s Fellowship**

Saturday March 19 at 8:30 a.m.  
Breakfast at Wade’s  
3504 N Academy  
(SW Corner of Academy and  
N Carefree)

**Cleaning Schedule**  
Feb 20 and 27 - Phil and Carol Puterbaugh  
March 5 and 12 – Dave and Donna Bristow  
March 19 and 26 – Jerry and Jackie Moore  
April 2 and 9 – Lyn and Carolyn Gunning  
April 16 and 23 – Dick and Carol Burbank  
April 30 and May 7 – Phil and Carol Puterbaugh



## Faith Formation for Kids and Adults

### Children's Faith Formation

A Joyful Path – a spiritual curriculum for young hearts and minds. Kids' Faith Formation Leaders this season include:..

March—Nancy Morlock-Hollins and Bob Hollins

April—Donna Bristow

May—Jennifer Strombeck

Lesson 12: A Drop of Water – Stillness

Lesson 37: Standing Tall—Palm Sunday

Lesson 38: New Life—Easter

Lesson 13: The Magic Potion – Learning Patience

Lesson 14: The New Neighborhood – Experiencing the Oneness of All Through Service

Lesson 15: Brother Wolf – Being an Instrument for Blessing

The lessons are designed with flexibility. They are drawn from qualities that are important to develop in our own lives as well as to nurture in our children. Therefore, there is no date assigned to any particular lesson. It may take 1 – 3 sessions for any lesson.



### Mid Week Faith Formation

Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

The study will be on The Book of Mark.

Read through the whole book of Mark; it's only 16 chapters and then come prepared to discuss a couple of chapters a session. It doesn't matter what version of the Bible you use. That will add some diversity to the discussion.

March 2 brings us to Chapter 13:26



### Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation



Percolate continues its study of The Meaning of Jesus- Two Visions by Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright. As the title suggests, this is a book of contrasts. Marcus Borg was raised in a “traditional conventional Midwest Lutheran church”, while N.T. Wright grew up in a “traditional and conventional Anglican church in the north of England.” Rather than being an acrimonious text, this is an open and respectful discussion between friends. Both share a Christian faith and practice and are both respected historians. Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 – to participate in the discussions - the coffee is always on.

## Mission of the Month for March

---

### 1. What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

### 2. Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Seven Christian denominations - American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and Church World

Service work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise over \$10 million annually.

### 3. How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?

Almost 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently there are 4 OGHS supported missionaries and 2 Global Mission Interns working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agricultural development, and refugee support. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

### 4. Where and how are OGHS funds shared?

The United Church of Christ responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries, and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States.

Funding decisions are made by asking our worldwide mission partners, "What would you have us do with you?" The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations that the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-third of the UCC's offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

---

Excerpt from the resources on the UCC website. [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs)

## **Help for Those Who Need It**

2 year old Adi went to Christian Hospital Mungeli (CHM), India after suffering seizures and severe spasticity, symptoms of hydrocephalus resulting from tubercular meningitis. Before his parents took him to CHM, they tried to take the small boy for treatment closer to their home, to no avail.

The CHM surgeons placed a shunt in the small boy to drain the excess fluid buildup in his brain. He then began physical therapy and has improved significantly.

3 months after the initial surgery, Adi went back to see the doctors. Today he is bursting with a 2-year-old's energy. The shunt is working, and he is responding well to anti-tuberculosis drugs. With his ongoing work in the physiotherapy department, Adi is expected to have continued improvement.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three Mission Personal at the Christian Hospital Mungeli, India. Anil and Theresa Henry are long-term physicians who helped turn the hospital around after it had been closed for many years, and Kahala Cannon, a Mission Intern working at the hospital has been there for a short time. They and other hospital staff are providing critical care to their community. People from both near and far utilize Christian Hospital Mungeli whenever they need emergency medical care.  
—Kahala Cannon

The offering for OGHS will be received on Easter Sunday.

---

## **Mission of the Month for April**

### **El Centro de Los Pobres**

#### **“The Center for the Poor”**

El Centro de Los Pobres is an inconspicuous warehouse in Avondale, Colorado, just east of Pueblo. It is the only charitable facility that serves the farm worker population in southern Colorado, many of whom don't even have an address to put on their registration form. These workers bring their families here for rice and beans, clothing, simple health services, help with bills, and a safe floor to sleep on when times are at their worst. The center also provides social outreach for them, acting as their voice in society when they have no one else to turn to. It was started 30 years ago and is currently led by Sister Nancy Crafton. The center is manned only by volunteers – no paid staff at all. There are currently 5000 families registered at Los Pobres. Over 200 families get help each week. Whatever the reason for their visit, each leaves with a sense of hope.

Isaiah 49:15-16 ... I will not forget you. I have carried you on the palm of my hand!  
The Mission of Los Pobres is to serve the immigrant poor and local indigent citizens by providing those things necessary for survival: food, clothing, and when possible, shelter.

## Membership

---

### March Birthdays

5 Kristi Pfeiffer  
10 Pepe Cais  
13 Peyton King  
17 Amy Gunning  
21 Rev Diane Martin

### Anniversaries

March 20 Dick and Carol Burbank  
Apr 23 Erin and Jon Elkaim

### April Birthdays

2 Nancy Morlock-Hollins  
2 Liz Bliss  
16 Donna Bristow  
17 Carolyn Gunning  
19 Dawn Bechthold-Blueitt  
25 Bob Howard  
25 Eileen Phelan  
26 Jim Price  
26 Anna Kolm

---

## Leadership Training for Moderators, Vice-Moderators, and Seekers.

---



Workshop – Saturday April 30 at Vista Grande UCC; 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Facilitator: Mr. John Rostykus, Vice Moderator of the Rocky Mountain Conference and Lay Member of Longmont UCC

Workshop Description: This First Step workshop was offered in Dec 2015

*“Lay leaders who attend this workshop will have the opportunity to identify common concerns and begin addressing the needs of lay leadership.*

*These areas could include how to set up and moderate a meeting, how to lead a committee, how to identify and address conflict, and how to seek out resources that are already available.*

*This will be a combination of presentation and working sessions. “*

The evaluations from the attendees stated, “We want more!”

**Continuing On Workshop** ... prepare, support, expand, and train.

Everyone is welcome, whether you attended Dec 2015 workshop or not.

The group will develop communication methods to support each other through the SEA churches, the Association, and the Conference.

A book that John recommends for lay leaders:

*Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Marcus Buckingham & Donald O. Clifton

The book includes a code to take the online Strengths Finder Test.

## HOLD THESE DATES—The Wider Church

---

### 2016 JWW Lecture Series

April 29, 30, and May 1, 2016

### presenting Bishop Yvette A. Flunder

**Bishop Flunder is the 2016 James W. White Lecture Series Guest Lecturer.** Follow us on Facebook to receive future event and ticket updates.

**Bishop Yvette Flunder** is a native San Franciscan and third generation preacher with roots in the Church of God in Christ.

Bishop Flunder is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and holds both masters and doctorate degrees in Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion and the San Francisco Theological Seminary, respectively. In 2003, she was appointed Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a multi denominational coalition of over 56 churches and faith-based organizations from all over the world.

Bishop Flunder is a trustee and adjunct professor at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. She is an active voice for the Religion

Council of the Human Rights Campaign, as well as for the National Black Justice Coalition. Bishop Flunder is a highly sought after preacher and religious educator as evidenced by her having spoken at divinity schools nationwide including those at Duke, Yale, Drew, and the New York Theological Seminary. She is the author of *Where the Edge Gathers: A Theology of Homiletic Radical Inclusion*, published by Pilgrim Press. In addition to her memorable sermons,

Bishop Flunder is also known for her beautiful singing voice, made famous through her gospel recordings with Walter Hawkins and the Family, the City of Refuge Choir and Chanticleer.

The lecture series is hosted by First Congregational Church in Colorado Springs.

---

---

**The 2016 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City** While the theme is still forthcoming, we are excited to formally invite clergy, lay-leaders, delegates, RMC UCC members, and their families to Annual Meeting 2016! The meeting will take place **June 9-12** at the University of Utah in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting will be hosted by our be-loved **Intermountain Association**. We developed the new Vision and Framework in 2014; in 2015, we planted Mission Seed groups to begin our important work for the future. In 2016, we are eager to radically connect with one another and continue our work in the name of the Spirit. Most importantly, we want to emphasize that Annual Meeting isn't just for delegates; it's for anyone and everyone interested in the good work and well-being of the Rocky Mountain Conference. We can't wait to see what the future holds, but we can't be at our best without the input, wisdom, and presence of our people. Our people decide the mission of the Conference, not the other way around!



**VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

Location: 5460 N Union Blvd  
Po Box 26030  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936  
719-599-3057  
www.vgcc.org

*Pastor Clare Twomey*

**COME, GROW WITH US**

We are a caring church for thinking people, an inclusive community of faith, united in our common quest to know God, inspired by the spirit of Jesus, and committed to sharing that love in ways that will make a difference in the world.

We are the Open and Affirming (ONA) Church in Northeast Colorado Springs.

---

**Annual Mission Plan for 2016**

January – Family Promise; **Donna Bristow**, coordinator

February – Pikes Peak Humane Society; **Deborah Tinsley**, coordinator

March – One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS); **Jerry Moore**, coordinator

April – Los Pobres; **Faye Gallegos**, coordinator

May – Strengthen the Church; **Deborah Tinsley**, coordinator

June – Inside Out Youth Services; **Trish King**, coordinator

July – Mercy's Gate; **Jackie Moore**, coordinator

(Collect school supplies and hygiene products for the health fair.)

August – Cheyenne Village; **Judy Druelinger** coordinator

September – Neighbors in Need (NIN); **Dave Bristow** coordinator

October – Literacy on the Go, **Nancy Morlock-Hollins** coordinator

Nov – One Nation Walking Together; **Judy and Mel Druelinger** coordinators

Dec –The Christmas Fund; **VGCC Clergy**

# March 2016

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship with FF for Kids 11:15 am Fellowship 11:45 am Korean Worship Service			1	2 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	3	4	5 8:30 am—New Member Class 10—11 am—Choir
6 Sunday Schedule Communion	7 5 pm Steering Mtg	8	9 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	10	11	12 8:30 am—New Member Class 10—11 am—Choir	
13 Sunday Schedule	14	15	16 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	17	18	19 8:30 am Women's Fellowship at Wade's 9 am—Community Workshop 1:30—2:30 pm—Choir	
20 Sunday Schedule Palm Sunday	21 	22	23 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	24 6 pm 	25	26	
27 Sunday Schedule Easter Eggs Hunt	28 	29	30 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	31	Mission of the Month One Great Hour of Sharing		

# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship with FF for Kids 11:15 am Fellowship 11:45 am Korean Worship Service			<b>Mission of the Month</b> Los Pobres	1	2	
3	4 5 pm Steering Mtg	5	6 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	8	9	
10 Sunday Schedule	11	12	13 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	15	16	
17 Sunday Schedule	18	19	20 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	22	23	
24 Sunday Schedule Potluck	25	26	27 5 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Choir	29	30 8:30 am Workshop sponsored by Southeastern Association	

