

A Small Church with a Great Purpose by Rev Clare Twomey

As I write this, there has been yet another outlandish proclamation by our commander-in-chief. This one says that transgender folks will no longer be able to serve in the military. This comes on the heels of another offensive comment about immigrants and an inappropriate speech given to some of the youth of this country which incited some to boo our previous president and others to threaten to quit Boy Scouts because of the nature and content of his words. In the midst of this is the ongoing power grab to determine who will decide the fate of millions who depend on current health care policies in order to stay alive.

I'm pretty sure you don't need me to enumerate all the stuff that happened from day to day in this country. Turn on any media at any time and there is plenty going on. Unfortunately, much of it is often indicative of all the injustices present: "isms" are alive and well, racism, sexism, etc.; economic disparity; homelessness; homophobia; greed; hostilities toward religious groups and immigrant and refugees...you get it. It is hard to see our way out of the muck and mire we seem to be trudging through.

And yet, there lives a Great Hope.

I wish that the experience of the UCC National Synod was available to all of you! There was a great energy among those who attended. There is something about being with thousands of folks who are compelled to join together in work towards the realization of God's kin-dom. One leaves such an experience feeling as if all is possible because we are stronger together.

As a small church it is sometimes easier to become overwhelmed with the goings on in the world. We can forget that we are just a part of a greater whole—the United Church of Christ. As such, we have the love and support of every other person in our denomination who desire the same things for God's creation. (Continued on page 3.)

Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Fox Run Park

Sunday August 20.

Read information on the back cover.

Inside this issue:

General Information	2
A Small Church Continued	3
The Wider Church	4
Women's Retreat	5
Fundraiser	5
Southeastern Association	6-7
Mission/Faith Formation / Membership/Facilities	8-9

Special points of interest:

- *Adult education 8:30 a.m.*
- *Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.*



Core Purpose:

The Rocky Mountain Conference is a faith community of over 77 UCC congregations in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming who support and nurture one another in local and wider ministry and mission, in the name of Jesus Christ. We are an open and welcoming denomination that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrates diversity, honors the gifts of all people and seeks justice and peace for all.

Our Core Values:

- Covenant – While honoring autonomy, we engage in covenantal relationship with the Holy, our neighbors, creation, and ourselves
- Enduring Faith – We express enduring faith in the transformational work of the Spirit
- Continuing Testament
- Extravagant Welcome
- Changing Lives

Check the website often for news and events!

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.

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**.

2016 Steering Committee consists of

Moderator – Erin Elkaim; Assistant Moderator – Jacque Bechthold-Blueitt; Treasurer – Dawn Bechthold-Blueitt; Financial Secretary – John Tinsley; Clerk – Deborah Tinsley; Members-at-Large – Jim Price and Jeannie Harrington

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.

Our Staff

Pastor—Rev Clare Twomey

Music Director—David Hudson

Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

Nursery Attendant—Liz Bliss

A Small Church with a Great Purpose (Continued from page 1.)

We all desire justice and peace, love and compassion, inclusion and understanding. We all bring a plethora of gifts to be used for the betterment of our universe. We hold fast to our community and in so doing, we remain connected to a larger community.

This Synod, our president introduced a new, two year campaign to further our call to be God's presence in the world: Three Great Loves. I will close this article with words from our president, Rev. John Dorhauer. Remember, folks this is just the beginning! We will explore how to be actively engaged in this initiative. More Hope to come!

"Like the previous mission initiatives, we will attempt to engage the entire denomination in a shared effort and measure the impact of that commitment.

"Three Great Loves" is a response to our newly articulated purpose, mission, and vision statement which reads:

- We will love the lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. (Purpose)
- United by the Holy Spirit and inspired by God's grace we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all. (Mission)
- A just world for all. (Vision).



These words are intended to articulate why the United Church of Christ is called by God into being – and unless we can operationalize them into mission that matters, they are just words. Therefore, we are inviting and calling the United Church of Christ into mission. We are challenging the entire denomination to engage in Three Great Loves:

The love of Neighbor; The love of Children; and The love of Creation.

Every setting of the United Church of Christ is invited to make two commitments:

First, discover ways in which you can engage the members of your faith community in mission that responds to the suffering of your neighbor, serves the needs of children, and/or honors the call to be good stewards of God's creation.

Second, find a way to narrate the impact of your commitment and tell the story to the rest of the denomination. We will create a web presence that archives and details not just the stories of your shared mission in this collective effort, but the details about the difference these commitments make.

Begin today talking with your board, council, consistory, deacons, youth group or any other relevant body about what you are willing to do to demonstrate a love for children, a love for neighbor, and a love for Creation. We believe an entire denomination that is willing to engage in an extended time of mission to serve these "Three Great Loves" can change the world. We know that your part in this mission matters – no matter where you are located or how large or small your community is.

Help us to engage the United Church of Christ in mission once again, all pulling together in common cause and for a common purpose.

The world is in need of our great love. And our love for the world can transform it."

Meet the NEW LOGO for the United Church of Christ.



Beginning with General Synod 2017 in Baltimore this summer, the United Church of Christ began the transition to a new logo for the denomination. The logo, last re-designed in

2004, has been updated to reflect both tradition and innovation within the church as it faces the challenges and opportunities of Christian witness in the coming decades.

The new logo's design and colors are intended to complement the graphic representation of "A Just World for All," developed to illustrate the new Purpose, Vision, and Mission Statements adopted by the national setting of the church last fall.

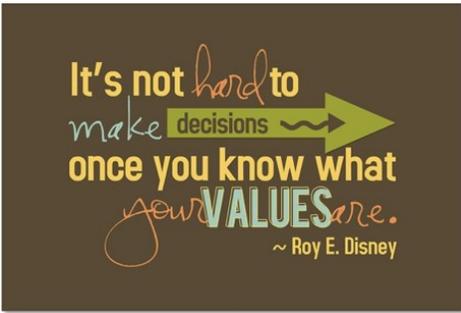
The new logo's colors were chosen to work with both 'A Just World for All' and the '3 Great Loves campaign — Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, Love of Creation,' which was rolled out during General Synod in Baltimore (June 30 – July 4). Blue has replaced red, with black retained as the second color, in the new design, to visually and symbolically represent Creation elements of water and earth.

The new logo retains an updated version of the traditional element of the UCC comma — a much-loved and widely used emblem of the United Church of Christ introduced as part of the "God is still speaking," identity campaign. That campaign quoted a line from Gracie Allen that her husband George Burns found among her papers after death. In a letter addressed to him were the words, "George, never place a period where God places a comma." A variation on that line, along with the graphic comma, has been used since 2004 as a symbol and shorthand way to refer to "continuing testimony," or the ever-unfolding nature of God's word for new times.

The new primary UCC logo consists of an updated comma emblem and the words "United Church of Christ." "God is still speaking," remains as the UCC's tagline, and the new logo may be used with or without the tagline.

In addition to the comma, the UCC retains its original emblem for use by congregations and other entities of the denomination: the traditional "cross, crown, and orb" graphic, including the words "That they may all be one" (John 17:21), which dates from the founding of the United Church of Christ in 1957—a statement of the UCC's intent to be a "united and uniting" church.

"It's never easy to move on from a familiar and well-known logo—especially in the church, and especially when the old logo meant 'God is still speaking' to many of us," said Tina Villa, UCC communications director. "While those words are as fresh as ever—which is why we are retaining them—our logo itself needed a visual update. And it needed to reflect the new directions the church is headed in, while not abandoning the core beliefs that anchor us: 'God is still speaking,' and 'that they may all be one.'"



Our Guiding Values:

Love, grounded in Faith and Hope;
Acceptance that includes Respect and Welcoming;
Caring Relationships
(Family, Friendship, Children, Community)

Women's Fall Retreat—Saturday October 7 Scandalous and Sacred:

Honoring Our Scandalous and Sacred Selves

This will be the theme of the Women's Retreat this year which will be held at the Garden of the Gods Conference Center located at the Garden of the God Trading Post at 324 Beckers Lane on October 7th. Crystal Karr will be our facilitator this year. Crystal has asked that we bring something that reminds you of your Scandalous and/or Sacred "S-heroes".

Time: 9:00 am for coffee and begin about 9:30 until 3 or 4 p.m.

All women are welcome and please feel free to bring a friend. A sign-up sheet will be available soon in Fellowship Hall. We will be able to keep the cost the same as last year -- \$35.00 per person, and this will include lunch. Please make checks payable to the church and mark "Women's Retreat" in the memo line. We will order off the menu from the Trading Post's café. These will be available a little closer to the date.

Hope to see ALL our women there.



Fundraiser—Saturday October 7 at 4:30 p.m.

Silent Auction ...Food ...Wine ...Kids' Activities ...Music



The fundraising task force is excited to announce that it is planning a silent auction at Vista Grande Community Church! We plan to have music and activities for the kids in addition to yummy morsels and some good wine. We are hoping to host a fun evening by inviting other churches as well as friends and families of the congregation! That being said, your participation is essential. There are many ways to be involved: making appetizers; planning and executing fun for the kids; suggesting/donating/ acquiring quality items for the auction; getting the word out; etc. Details will be forthcoming, with specifics regarding sign up for food, setup and decorating, advertising, as well as items needed for donation. This promises to be a fun and exciting way to raise some money for the church and of course spend time together! The contact person for this event is Jeannie Harrington. Please contact her for any questions @ 719-473-6485.

CONNECT with the Southeastern Association (SEA)

The Southeastern Association Fall Annual Gathering

Saturday October 14, 2017 at Black Forest Community UCC.

Theme: “So That” a continuation from last year’s theme to “Be The Church.”

Keynote Speaker: Rev Erin Gilmore, our newly installed Associate Conference Minister.

Plan to come and be radically connected outside of our church walls.

We try to connect with many of our churches throughout the year. During the 2016-2017 year:

First Congregational Church in Pueblo hosted the 2016 Fall Annual Association Meeting;

Broadmoor UCC and Community Cong'l in Manitou Springs offered space for the monthly Church and Ministry Mtgs:

First Congregational Church in Colorado Springs hosted an Ecclesiastical Council (and another one is coming up in August);

Church in the Wildwood in Green Mountain Falls hosted the workshop on “Online Tools”;

Westside CARES and Vista Grande UCC offered space for the Southeastern Association Executive Committee to gather; and

Black Forest Community will host our 2017 Fall Annual Mtg. That’s connecting with 7 churches. We share the opportunity to host so during 2017-2018, more churches will host SEA activities as others have in the past.

Workshop – Online Tools

The Southeastern Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference sponsored a fabulous workshop on “How to Use Online Tools to Engage with the World”

The RMC’s Communication Director, Cory Kibler led our time together.

The Workshop Goals included

Empowerment, Inspiration, and Models for Action.



Why is it important to implement “Online Tools”?

- It gives our church visibility—half the battle.
- Allows us to build our persona outside church walls.
- Offers a larger presence = better placement in search results.
- Gives inspiration from and for other churches and organizations.
- Offers resources, invitations, and events for current members.
- Serves as historical record, photo album, and member forum.

Being Radically Connected is a vision of the Rocky Mountain Conference and we learned so much by being connected with other churches. There were 7 UCC churches represented. VGCC was represented by Donna, Dave, and Deborah.

You are invited to an EC for Logan Bennett, a Member in Discernment with the Southeastern Association on Sunday Aug. 13 at 3 p.m. at First Congregational UCC in Colorado Springs. Rev Clare Twomey is Logan's advisor during this journey.

What is an ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL?

When a ministerial candidate who we call a Member in Discernment has graduated from seminary and has completed all the additional requirements to move toward ordination, he or she is examined by the local Church and Ministry Committee. After successfully completing that ordination examination, the next step in the approval process is an **ecclesiastical council**. The ecclesiastical council is an official meeting held before or following the point at which the candidate has received a call to an ordained ministry position recognized by the Association.

As the Association is the ordaining body, the candidate must be examined by voting delegates from the churches in the Association. An official meeting is called where lay and clergy members of our churches hear a brief presentation from the candidate's ordination paper, have the opportunity to ask questions, and are given the responsibility to vote to approve ordination, pending a call to ministry.

The ordination paper consists of three parts: the candidate's theological perspective; knowledge and understanding of UCC history, polity, and practice; and personal faith journey.

Ideally, the candidate's ordination paper is distributed to the delegates in time for their reading before the ecclesiastical council. The purpose of the ecclesiastical council is to authorize the ordination of the candidate. Logan's paper is available at Vista Grande.

According to our Association bylaws, each church, based on membership size, is given voting delegate responsibilities. Vista Grande UCC is allotted 3 delegates, although more members may be present. It is our responsibility as a covenantal church to support these official meetings with voting representation.

Hi Gang,

Just wanted to let you know , Vista Grande was invited to attend a recognition luncheon at General Synod for our support of the 5 for 5 mission. We were one of four churches recognized in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Our invite was because of our per/capita giving for the **Strengthen the Church**, specifically. Still, no small feat as it calls upon other churches to give more! The other churches in the RMC were First Church, Arvada; Plymouth Congregational, Fort Collins; and St. Paul's, Laramie WY. This is a good thing and one I think we can build on!

Pastor Clare



Mission and Membership

Mission



As you may remember, during the 2017 stewardship drive we pledged to the operational budget and to missions. The mission pledges go directly to our mission activity. The mission committee made the commitment to send support money each quarter as funds are available. The 2 Q checks were recently mailed out. The report of giving is posted on the mission bulletin board at church. As a reminder, if you did a mission pledge, please help us honor those pledges. Several of our support missions also ask for hands on items. Perhaps this works better for your budget.

Los Pobres – Currently they are in need of men’s clothing; pants, jeans, shirts, socks, underclothes. Bring your donations and place in a bag or box under the Los Pobres display in Fellowship Hall. Los Pobres also needs 5 lb bags of white flour, cooking oil, dry rice and beans. These items are the main staples for the local community.

Clothing and Household - When you bring in donations, please inventory and label as to which agency is the recipient.

Food – check the expiration dates and make sure everything is sealed.

Thank you for your generosity.

Birthdays for August

- 1 Carol Burbank
- 3 Deona Quarles
- 5 Trish King
- 7 Kathryn Romberg
- 20 Judy Gibson
- 20 Gabriel Martin
- 23 Phil Puterbaugh
- 24 Grayson Barnes
- 25 Mary Ellen Kohlhagen
- 27 Sebastian Bongirno
- 27 Clare Twomey
- 28 Jimmy Collins
- 30 Jacque Bechthold-Blueitt

Anniversaries

- August 2, Crystal and Joel Karr
- Aug 17 Kathryn Romberg
- Aug. 19 jJimmy and Brenda Collins
- August 24 Eduardo and Melissa
- Aug. 29, Mel and Judy Druelinger

Birthdays for September

- 1 Roberta Povelite
- 3 Crystal Karr
- 9 Aniya Quarles
- 13 Ron Forth
- 17 Jackie Moore
- 18 David Hudson
- 18 Tim Baptist
- 18 Melissa Webster
- 21 Dante Baptist
- 22 Max Hale
- 26 Tammie Davis

Anniversaries

- Sept 1 John and Deborah Tinsley
- Sept. 3 Lyn and Carolyn Gunning
- Sept. 20 Charlie and Jan Morgan
- Sept. 23 Cindy and Curly Solomon-Klebba
- Sept 23 Justin and Kelsie Hollins

Faith Formation and Facilities

Adult –

The Sunday morning class aka “Percolate” meets at 8:30 a.m. This class is usually based on a book study and discussion.

White Privilege – supported by a curriculum from the United Church of Christ. This class meets at Noon on Sundays. You are welcome to drop in and out.



Contemplative Conversations

meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

"Contemplative conversations in an informal group that meets weekly to explore personal, spiritual journeys. We talk about pertinent topics which influence our spiritual lives. This group in an opportunity to share our spirituality outside of the traditional worship setting. It is not necessary to attend every meeting on order to participate."

Children –

The children are invited to remain in worship service. Activities at the children’s tables usually blend with the morning message.

Occasionally, a Saturday activity is planned so the children can build relationships.

Facilities/Trustees

This group is tasked with the many projects that keep the facility in good working order. These include indoor weekly cleaning, outdoor yard work, keeping up general maintenance, and being fiscally responsible. You are invited to share your expertise, energy, and support throughout the year.

Cleaning Schedule

August 5 and 12 – Jackie and Jerry Moore

August 19 and 26 – Carolyn and Lyn Gunning

Sept 2 and 9 – Carol and Phil Puterbaugh

Sept 16 and 23 —Donna and Dave Bristow

Sept 30 and Oct 7—Erika Borboa and
Jon Forshee





VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Location: 5460 N Union Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO
Mailing: PO Box 26030 COS 80936
Email: vgcc.ucc@att.net
719-599-3057
www.vgcc.org

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.

Outdoor Worship and Picnic – Sunday August 20

Our Annual Outdoor Worship and Picnic will be held at Fox Run Park, Pavilion 4. Flyers with maps are available at Vista Grande.

Sunday, August 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Fox Run Park—Pavilion 4.
(when you enter the park you veer to the left for pavilions 4 and 5)

For the picnic lunch ... bring your own meat to grill; a dish to pass; outdoor games; and extra picnic chairs.

This gathering will take the place of worship at Vista Grande. If you can't attend, we'll see you the next week at Vista Grande



August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am MultiGen Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Noon White Privilege		1 6 pm Contemplative Conversations	2 No prayer shawl ministry today	3	4	5
6 Sunday Schedule Communion	7 5 pm Steering Committee Mtg	8 6 pm Contemplative Conversations	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday Schedule EC for Logan Bennett (off site)	14	15 6 pm Contemplative Conversations	16 9:30 am Prayer Shawl	17	18	19
20 10:30 am Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Fox Run Park 	21	22 6 pm Contemplative Conversations	23	24	25	26
27 Sunday Schedule	28	29 6 pm Contemplative Conversations	30	31		

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am MultiGen Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Noon White Privilege					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Sunday Schedule</i> <i>Communion</i>		6 pm <i>Contemplative</i> <i>Conversations</i>	9:30 am <i>Prayer Shawl</i>			9 am <i>Family Faith</i> <i>Formation</i>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>Sunday Schedule</i>		5 pm <i>Steering</i> <i>Committee Mtg</i> 6 pm <i>Contemplative</i> <i>Conversations</i>	8 am <i>Men's Breakfast at</i> <i>Wade's Cafe</i>			9 am <i>Boundary Aware-</i> <i>ness Training at</i> <i>UCCPH</i> <i>(clergy and lay)</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>Sunday Schedule</i> <i>1 pm Private Memorial</i>		6 pm <i>Contemplative</i> <i>Conversations</i>	9:30 am <i>Prayer Shawl</i>			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Sunday Schedule</i>		6 pm <i>Contemplative</i> <i>Conversations</i>				