



THE OUTREACH

Keeping you informed about the mission and ministry of
Hillcrest Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC)

611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401 | 970-249-9047

www.montroseucc.org

February 2012

**God
is still
speaking,**

Church Staff

Rev. Karen Winkel, Pastor
Janet Sims, Choir Director

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Marcia Coman, Editor
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Joan Elliott
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Jan Touslee

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM followed by
coffee and conversation

Sunday Nursery Care

in The Fun Zone
(up to age 5)

Sunday School

Ages 6-13 during the
school year

Communion

Celebrated on the first
Sunday of each month

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM to Noon

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Love Notes—A Word from Our Pastor

"How do I love thee, let me count the ways," wrote the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning. With Valentine's Day soon upon us, I'm thinking of the many ways I love this church and the people in it. Below are ten shining reasons. Look them over and then tell me what *your* top ten includes.

1. Hillcrest doesn't just say "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." You *mean* it.
2. Whether it's keeping Sharing Ministries' shelves stocked month after month, pitching in to keep the grounds looking great, providing space for the Boys and Girls Club, or digging deep to support the life and ministries of the church, this congregation is generous beyond belief.
3. You value unity of spirit over uniformity of thought.
4. You love and support all the children of the church, not just the ones you're related to.
5. In an age when many Christian women's groups have disbanded, at 100 years young Women's Union is more determined than ever to keep growing in faith and service.
6. Whether it's the efforts of a particular person, a small group, or the church as a whole, you aren't afraid to try something new.
7. You invite involvement but don't give in to the temptation to twist arms or induce guilt.
8. When given a choice between going the way of the world or the way of the kingdom Jesus proclaimed was close at hand, you choose the kingdom path every time.
9. Your favorite question to one another is "How can I help?"
10. You take your faith seriously but yourselves lightly. (Isn't that how angels are able to fly?)

There's not a day goes by that I'm not made aware that Hillcrest is one special place, filled with folks who shine with love, forgiveness, and a desire to serve rather than be served. I love being your pastor, but more than this, I love learning from you what it means to be Christ's church together.

Yours on the journey of love,

Moderator's Moment.....Cindy LaJoy

"Business as usual" is a phrase we are all familiar with, but over the course of the past couple of years witnessing historical changes in our economy and shifts in business practices across our country, we are all beginning to recognize that "business as usual" is no longer acceptable or viable. That we here at Hillcrest are beginning to understand that we too are experiencing a shift is not at all a surprise, and together we are beginning the process of discerning exactly what that means for us.

As your new Church Council Moderator, I will not pretend to have great business acumen, nor will I profess to be an expert in Robert's Rules of Order. However, I think at this time in the life of our congregation, what is needed is something a little different, for we are at a critical juncture and need to do some Big Picture thinking alongside the handling of the day to day details. We need to re-imagine ourselves, we need to understand who God is calling us to be in the year 2012, for that is surely very different than it was 30 years ago. We live in a vastly different world, one where Facebook replaces the phone, where "religion" is shied away from but where "spirituality" is more easily embraced. Discovering what that means for us is of utmost importance, for it will guide as us we move forward.

During the course of the coming year, your Council will be doing things a bit differently, as we attempt to clarify and define who we at Hillcrest UCC are and why we do what we do. There will, of course, still be business to attend to, but our priority will be to work together with each other and the congregation to listen for God's leading. We will be attempting to discern what God is calling us to do and be in our community, and making suggestions to the congregation based upon that understanding.

We will all be called upon to be open to new ideas as we seek ways to become more financially stable, and your Council can be viewed as the leaders of a collaborative process involving every single member of our church family. "Business as usual" will be cast aside, as we recognize that Jesus himself was radically different from the religious leaders of his time, and remains so today. We will work to remind ourselves of what we value, and measure every business decision against those values.

We may find ourselves having to make difficult decisions, ones that make us uncomfortable or that push us outside our "business as usual" box. However, we will be working together as a community of God's beloved people, and because of that we will have the absolute assurance that we will be transformed in positive ways by any such decisions. Listening, praying, and being in relationship with one another will help us along the way.

It is an exciting time to belong to this wonderful faith community of ours, and the gifts of every single member of our congregation are needed and appreciated! Hang on, we are in for an amazing ride... and it certainly won't be "business as usual"!

Faithfully Yours,

Cindy LaJoy



Food for the Soul Book Club

The story of God arriving in strangers is the topic of Sr. Marilyn Lacey's book, *This Flowing Toward Me*, which our group will be discussing on March 26th at 7 p.m. Here's how Sr. Helen Prejean describes the book: "With a lively mix of humor, insight, and compassion, Marilyn Lacey invites those of us living behind locked doors in a world shuttered by homeland security to risk engaging neighbors near and far, and there discover, perhaps to our unending surprise, that where we felt most threatened, a wealth of blessings instead awaits us."

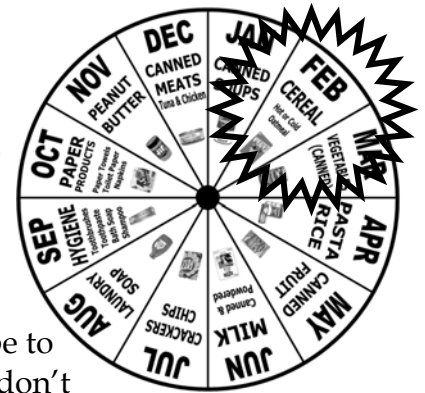
Orders are being taken through Sunday, February 12th. Cost is \$12.50. A sample copy of the book, as well as a sign up sheet, can be found in the narthex.

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH MINISTRY

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." ~ Matthew 25:40

The final total is in and we collected **1,257 pounds of food** during 2011! With 1 in 6 Colorado homes struggling to put food on their tables, our donations are helping Sharing Ministries to serve over 4,000 people each month — mostly in Montrose, but also Delta, Ouray, San Miguel and Gunnison counties.

During the month of February, please donate a **box of your favorite breakfast cereal**. You'll find bins at the front of the sanctuary — we hope to fill them with cereals, oatmeal, and other healthy breakfast food. If you don't have a yellow food wheel (like the one shown at the right), you can pick one up at the church or let us know and we'll make sure you get one.



“A VIEW FROM THE PEW”

When Words Fall Short



This past December 30th, Beth and I attended a talk given here at Hillcrest by a Tibetan Buddhist monk named Geshe Phuntsok. My sense was that this affable man deeply felt and was quite comfortable with the platitudes he spoke about, but his somewhat limited familiarity with the English language made it very difficult for him to get his points across. After about 15 minutes of struggling to grasp his words, I decided instead to let myself relax into his meanings. I could pick up enough to know and be comfortable with what he was trying to get across. I didn't really need to hang on every word. It has long been a belief of mine that in our heart, we always feel — usually at a subtle level — what is in another person's heart. That is why the warmth behind one person's greeting of "Hello" or "Peace be with you" makes us glow whereas someone else's exact same words might have no effect. We are receptive to the intention behind the spoken word and not just to the dictionary meaning of the words themselves.

As I kicked this around in my head the next morning, I thought about some of the most important written words that we, as Christians, deal with — the teachings or "words" attributed directly to Jesus Christ. I believe if we only hear them or read them as just so many words of doctrine, we run the risk of admiring the wrapping paper without ever opening the package. The words themselves, lying flat on a sheet of paper, can be lifeless and without energy. Intuitively I know that when Jesus spoke them — albeit in something other than English — His words were anything but lacking in energy. But He is no longer standing before us speaking those words directly to us — or is He?

Time is not the linear construct that we once thought it to be. I don't believe Jesus the Christ to be some abstract figure from a land and time so far away that He has little pertinence in my life today. Just as I could sense that Monk's meaning behind his halting words, I believe we can still connect with the power, intention and the full meaning behind the words of Christ if we but make it our intent to do so and quiet the chattering mind and allow it to happen. If you would be interested in a structured technique for doing this, Google or otherwise check out the time-honored practice of "Lectio Divina". Christ is still speaking.

Faith Ministry.....

- We will welcome Rev. George Miller back to the pulpit on Sunday, February 12. His voice, a gift to the choir, will now bring faith to us in another setting.
- Pastor Karen will be taking a study leave February 6-12 to immerse herself in the Lenten scriptures and prepare for this holy season. Karen will remain in town, so will be available to respond to pastoral emergencies.



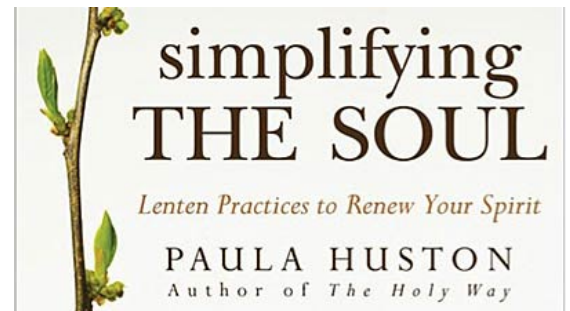
Lenten Season Worship Schedule

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|------------|
| Ash Wednesday | Feb.22 | St. Paul's | 6:45 p.m. |
| Palm Sunday | April 1 | Hillcrest UCC | 10:00 a.m. |
| Maundy Thursday | April 5 | Hillcrest UCC | 6:45 p.m. |
| Easter Sunday | April 8 | Hillcrest UCC | 10:00 a.m. |

Lenten Soup Supper Mid-week Gatherings

Satisfying fare of all kinds is on the menu for those seeking an extra special Lenten journey this year. On Tuesday evenings in March from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pastor Karen and Rev. Dave Vickers will lead a gentle exploration of the book, *Simplifying the Soul*, by Paula Huston. Huston's book offers a simple practice for each day of Lent.

Pastor Karen is taking book orders—but not for long! The cost is \$12.50 and the deadline is Thursday, February 9th.



What Is Lent, Anyway?

Lent is the name given to the traditional 40-day Christian season of prayer and preparation leading up to the solemn events of Holy Week and then the joyous celebration of Easter. The length of this season (Sundays are not included in this calculation) echoes Jesus' time of fasting and temptation in the wilderness immediately following his baptism.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd this year). Services that day gently remind Christians of the need for repentance and include the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on the forehead or the back of the hand. Throughout Lent, Christians are encouraged to take up spiritual practices as a way of being in solidarity with Jesus, whose journey to Jerusalem and his death is recalled during this season. During Holy Week, Christians remember and grieve the circumstances that led to Jesus' betrayal, desertion, and death. On Easter, Christians rejoice as we recall Jesus' resurrection and claim anew the gift that comes from knowing that God does not allow death to have the last word.

WOMAN'S UNION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Second in a Series of Five



The last Colorado frontier, The Western Slope of the Rockies, was not opened up for settlement until after 1880; not until after the mineral discoveries in the San Juan Mountains were made, the Ute Indians were removed from previously arranged reservations [1881], and railroads were completed [1881]. The Homestead Act had been passed in 1861, but there were many homestead sites available in the Uncompahgre Valley in the 1880's. Plans were made for irrigated fields in the river bottoms, cattle grazing above the streams, and even fruit trees being planted.

The city of Montrose had been platted by 1882 and the Methodists had established a place of worship in a carpenter shop on Main Street "which was "clapboards" up and down with a rough floor and crudest of benches" [quotation taken from the Methodist 100th anniversary book written by Irma Harrison]. Many pioneers who came to town wanted to worship, so the building was soon overflowing. By 1885, the Methodists had built a brick building and a parsonage.

In 1885, two Congregational ministers, ten women and two men gathered together in the Methodists' parsonage to organize the Union Congregational Church and adopt the Articles of Faith. They applied to the National Building Society for aid in building a church, which was completed in 1886. Several additions were made to the original building as the membership grew to 111 by the 1900 Annual Reunion.

Imagine being one of those women who became a charter member of the Union Congregational Church. Why did you come to the Uncompahgre [could you pronounce that word, much less spell it?] Valley? Were you following a father, family member or husband who was chasing a dream in hopes of finding a better life despite the physical and mental difficulties to be endured? When you got to the "Valley" were you looking for friendship with other women? Had you heard that Montrose had one church, the Methodist, and that was why the community was considered a fit place for women and children and was civilized and you would find culture there? Were you seeking a place to practice to practice your religion and find fellowship?

Congregational women chose for their fellowship the Missionary Society. The meetings were held on the first Wednesday of each month at 3 o'clock p.m. Rev. Joel Harper was the Pastor from 1900 to 1906, and Rev. John J. Shingler was Pastor from 1906 to 1909. Their wives held offices in the Society. The only records we can find are program booklets. In the oldest program booklet, the program segments were classified as "Exercises". In one of the program booklets, we read: "OUR AIM—Every woman of the Church a member of the Missionary Society". Also: "Anywhere if it be forward". [Livingston] "Come regularly, come punctually, come prayerfully, come to give and to get good, come and bring your friends." [quotes from Missionary Society booklets].

Items of interest: Women rarely used their Christian names, but were know by their husband's names.

Items of correction: In the January newsletter, the date of the fire should be February 4, 1917: and the Missionary Society information was for the Woman's Union meetings of 1912. My apologies.



One Green Thing

It has been awhile since we've talked about something that is somewhat second-nature around Hillcrest... being a "green church". Long before it became fashionable to be green, our church made a conscious decision to find ways to be good stewards of the environment and respect God's creation, including using glass dishes and cups during fellowship events and potluck suppers, encouraging recycling, composting kitchen scraps, hosting a community garden, and organizing road cleanups each spring and fall.

Each month, we will give you another simple tip for "being green". If you have any ideas to share, please call Jan in the office or send an email to office@montroseucc.org.

This month's "One Green Thing" applies to all those mail-order catalogs that overflowed our mailboxes during the holidays. If you want to remove your name from those mailing lists, visit www.catalogchoice.com and fill out their simple form. If you need help or don't have a computer, but still want to participate, see Kim Floyd



Seasons of the Spirit

Themes and Lectionary Readings
(Focus passage in bold)

February 5, 2012

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Year B
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 12, 2012

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Year B
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

February 19, 2012

Last Sunday after Epiphany Year B
Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 26, 2-12

First Sunday in Lent

Gen9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1: 9-15



Happy Birthday to You

- 5 Dominick Lajoy
- 6 Steve Nannestad
- 8 Marcia Coman
- 8 Conner Hotsenpiller
- 8 Alissa Loncar
- 9 Lois Latimer
- 15 Jane Jones
- 19 Martin Valdez
- 21 Cathy Hartt
- 23 Carlin Knight
- 23 Darlene Schroedel
- 23 Laura Schroedel
- 27 Karen Winkel

Please let the office know if we forgot to include your birthday!



Our own Larry Sims—In The News....
The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel featured Larry and his culinary skills in their Food Section last month. On January 11, the article, "Delicious re-creations" highlighted Larry's ability to duplicate dishes from around the world. Check out the recipes online—or if you are lucky, he'll share!

Weekly Worship Teams

| | <u><i>Greeters</i></u> | <u><i>Liturgists</i></u> | <u><i>Acolytes</i></u> | <u><i>Fellowship Host/Hostess</i></u> |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5 | Wilma & Joe Eisasguirre | Clayton Beaudry | Angela LaJoy | Pot Luck Sunday |
| 12 | Matt and Olesya LaJoy | Cindy LaJoy | Kenny LaJoy | Karen Winkel |
| 19 | Aljean Greenacre & Pat Idsardi | Matt LaJoy | Rowen Naylor | Lois Latimer |
| 26 | Joan Elliott & Kenny LaJoy | Kim Floyde | Josh LaJoy | Birthdays Celebration |

February 2012

| February 2012 | | | | | | | March 2012 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
| | Jan 29 | 30 | 31 | Feb 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Jan 29 - Feb 4 | | | | 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Montrose Farmers Market Board Meeting (Von Hagen Hall) | Groundhog Day | | | |
| | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| Feb 5 - 11 | Communion Sunday 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 11:00am Potluck | Pastor Karen Study Leave | | | | | 4:00pm Outreach Ministry | 7:30am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Explorers Club |
| | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| Feb 12 - 18 | Pastor Karen Study Leave Lincoln's Birthday 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 11:15am Living the Questions 5:30pm Church Council | | Valentine's Day 10:00am Bible Study | 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal | | | | |
| | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | |
| Feb 19 - 25 | 10:00am Worship 11:30am Mardi Gras Brunch (Camp Robber) | Presidents' Day | 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am Faith Ministry | Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 11:30am Women's Union Meeting | | 9:30am Explorers Club Field Trip | |
| | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | Mar 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Feb 26 - Mar 3 | First Sunday of Lent 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 11:15am Living the Questions | | 10:00am Bible Study | 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal | | | | |

All events take place at church unless otherwise noted.
 To view this calendar online, go to www.montroseucc.org/calendar