

THE OUTREACH

Keeping you informed about the mission and ministry of
Hillcrest Congregational United Church of Christ
611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401 | (970) 249-9047

www.montroseucc.org

September 2024

 God
is still
speaking,

Ministers All

Rev. Wendy Kidd, Pastor

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM followed by
coffee and conversation

Communion

Celebrated on the first
Sunday of each month

Children's Prayground and Infants' Room Available

Stay in Touch

Please let us know if you
change your address,
phone number, or email
address so we can update
our records. Call (970)
249-9047 or email
office@montroseucc.org

Visit our website at

www.montroseucc.org



facebook.com/hillcrestucc



Pastor's Ponderings

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the "Season of Creation," September 1 – October 4. Christians across denominations and around the world are invited to pray and care for creation. September 1 was declared as a World Day of Prayer for Creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1989. It was embraced by other European churches in 2001, and by the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. Since 2016, the World Council of Churches and many others have collaborated in an ecumenical celebration of the Season of Creation.

For the second year, the UCC is conducting a nationwide Climate Hope campaign. In 2023, nearly 8,000 postcards urging strong environmental protections were collected from 143 churches, Conferences, and camps and delivered to the EPA. This year's campaign, Vote for Climate Hope, invites voters to make "a sacred commitment to a more just and equitable world for people of all ages, races, and walks of life." You can learn more about the UCC's Environmental Justice Ministries and the Climate Hope campaign on page 4 of this newsletter.

I hope you will join us this month in celebrating the Season of Creation and that you will consider taking the Climate Hope Voter Pledge, committing "to vote as an act of hope for present and future generations."

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Wendy

HILLCREST

happenings



OCWM Offering – Sunday, September 8

The OCWM Offering provides funding for the work of UCC Conferences and for the work of the UCC's national ministries. Congregations send their OCWM gifts to the Conference. Each Conference then decides what percentage of those gifts to keep for the work within that Conference, and what percentage it will send to the

national setting of the UCC. Some of the National Basic Support money is used for ministries to Conferences, local churches and members, as well as for ecumenical, prophetic and missionary ministries on behalf of the UCC. Contributions from individuals to their congregations comprise the funds from which OCWM Basic Support is given to the Conferences and national ministries.



Church Council



The Church Council meets on ***the second Sunday of the month*** following worship.

2024 Church Council

Bob Idsardi, Financial Secretary • Bruce Herr, Member-at-Large
Eileen Izzo, Treasurer • Jacquie Mercer, Moderator • Kevin Eber, Secretary
Lael Van Riper, Member-at-Large • Pat Idsardi, Church Clerk
Rev. Wendy Kidd, Pastor



Rev. Wendy is available for drop-in conversation twice monthly:

SECOND Tuesday, 9 – 11 a.m., at the Coffee Trader, Main St.

FOURTH Thursday, 2 – 4 p.m., at San Juan Brews, Main St.

(Subject to change based on the pastor's schedule.)

You may also contact Rev. Wendy, (303) 913-2123 or revwendykidd@gmail.com, to schedule coffee and/or conversation.



Church Work Day

Saturday, September 14, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Help us prepare the church grounds for winter!

If you don't like to or can't work outside, we have other tasks that can be done.

Lunch and refreshments provided. Sign up at worship.



🌸 Women's Union 🌸

The Women's Union meets on the **3rd Thursday of the month**,
2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Von Hagen Hall.



SHARING MINISTRIES FOOD BANK



If you wish to donate items, in September we are collecting *canned vegetables*. Sharing Ministries can purchase many food items at a discounted rate, so financial contributions are welcome. Please make checks payable to HCUCC with the memo line made out: "For Sharing Ministries."

♻️ Recycle Water Bottles ♻️

Shepherd's Hand is in desperate need of reusable water bottles!
Please bring gently used reusable water bottles to worship in September.



Colorado • Utah • Wyoming

<https://rmcucc.org/connect/>

Western Association Annual Fall Meeting

October 4 – 5, 2024, First Congregational UCC, Grand Junction

The annual fall gathering begins Friday, October 4, with registration, dinner, and a worship/covenanting service (4:30 – 8:00 p.m.).

Community Spirit UCC will be recognized with official standing in the denomination. On Saturday, October 5, there is a continental breakfast, centering time, Association business meeting, and lunch (7:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.).

Registration is \$30.00 per person and the registration deadline is September 27. Please see Rev. Wendy or Jacquie Mercer, Moderator, for more information.

UCC | NEWS

<https://www.ucc.org/news/>

Climate Hope

The care of God's creation is a central calling of Christians and has found unique expression in the life of the United Church of Christ. Leaders from the UCC were integral to the launch of the environmental justice movement in the 1980s with its pioneering focus on environmental racism. Through General Synod resolutions, we have repeatedly stepped forward to lead the way as people of faith on critical climate matters. Today, congregations throughout the country have answered the call to tend God's creation by becoming Creation Justice Churches. You can learn more about the UCC's Environmental Justice Ministries online at <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/efam/environmental-justice-ministries/>.

People are more likely to vote when they make a commitment to others to vote. The climate crisis is deeply motivating for many potential voters. To put our values and vision into practice, the UCC is conducting a Vote for Climate Hope campaign in 2024. Between now and November 1st, UCC churches from across the country are collecting Climate Hope Voter Pledge Cards. Those who pledge to vote will receive a confirmation email with helpful voter information; a one-time reminder of their pledge to vote in the week before the election; and a chance to win one of ten Vote for Climate Hope tumblers featuring the artwork from our 2024 Climate Hope Art Contest for children and youth.

You can learn more about the Climate Hope Voter Pledge online at <https://www.ucc.org/climatehopecards/>. Pick up your Climate Hope Voter Pledge cards at worship. Pledge online or return your postcard to the church.



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Communion</i> SUNDAY	2 	3	4	5	6	7
8 Grandparents Day  Church Council Meeting 	9	10 Coffee  Talk Coffee Trader 9-11 am	11 	12	13	14  CHURCH Work Day
15 JustPeace  Sunday	16	17	18	19 Women's Union  2-3 pm	20	21
22  FALL BEGINS	23	24	25	26 Coffee  Talk San Juan Brews 2-4 pm	27	28
29	30	<p>"When I flash back to the lovely days of September Where I've kept some dreams and stories to remember Something like old streets and avenues to wander Something like my toys when I was younger I have a fond belief that September will stay forever There were many things in September, sweet and tender Something like love, something like adventure Something like childhood, something like the rain, like the water" – Hayet Ben Bada</p>				