

The Bell Tower

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of caring friends and neighbors . . .
growing to live our motto — open doors,
open minds, open hearts

MARCH 2016

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Treasurer's Report
Fiscal 2016 (through 01/31/16)
Income \$5,254
Budgeted Income \$6,360
Expenses \$8,251
Budgeted Expenses \$10,012

Easter Schedule – 27 March

8:30 Pancake Potluck
9:00 Sunday School
9:00 Choir warm-up
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship

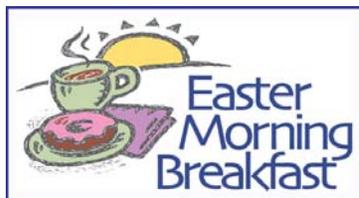
Easter Sunday Breakfast

Come enjoy a Potluck Pancake Breakfast and great fellowship before our Easter service.

Breakfast will start at 8:30. Jack and Jim (with young assistants) will be flipping both sourdough and gluten-free pancakes for the asking.

The rest of us will be bringing in egg dishes, fruits, veggies and other fun potluck dishes.

Call Kathleen if you have questions or wish to support set up/take down for Easter's breakfast!



Adults may linger over coffee and conversation until worship begins at 10 am.

Children, on the other hand, may join Amy Tomilson and Nancy Waldron for Sunday School from 9-10 a.m. making Resurrection Eggs.

The plastic eggs have little items inside — like memory props — that help the kids tell the story of Christ rising on Easter.

Worship in Lent Sailing to New Life...

We are all on a journey together. Sometimes it feels like the waves get rough. Sometimes the winds of inspiration seem flat. Sometimes the crew gets rowdy. Sometimes our compass doesn't seem to match what we hear the captain saying. Sometimes our burdens get so heavy, but we don't know how to cast off that ballast. And sometimes, when the sun rises just right, and our sails fill up, pointing us to a beautiful shore, sailing together fulfills exactly what we are called to be.

All through Lent, worship will use the parable of sailing, to journey through the penitent toward the hopeful. Come on board with us.

Music in Worship

There is still a Worship Box in the back of the sanctuary, waiting for you to write down a song or a Scripture that you want us to use!

Help shape the ministry of this congregation, with the music and Bible passages that move your sense of the Spirit of God.

Coffee and Conversation

Every Thursday, 9 am, at *The Train Cars*, everyone is invited for coffee and conversation about life, faith, church and everything in between.

Men's Group meets the third Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. This month, we're hitting up Salto on 20 March.

Nederland Interagency Council on Homeless Encampments

— Hansen

You all know that the greater Nederland area is a hotbed for homeless campers. It's a huge issue in the summer, and we see far too many people coming up here unprepared for the winter. They often find their way to the church, asking for water, food, or advice.

A group of agencies have been working for over year to address this: US Forest Service, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, human service agencies, the Town of Nederland, this church, and now a few local business owners. Three things have happened recently that will affect our area's response.

First, Denver University researched the regional policing of urban 'camping'. Many of our front range cities, as well as Nederland, have ordinances against sleeping outside. How are those enforced?

From 2010-2014, Denver wrote 15 tickets for this 'crime'. That seems low, considering that any nighttime drive through downtown will reveal many, many people who are experiencing homelessness, alongside very full shelters.

In that same time period, Boulder wrote 1767 tickets, despite having far fewer people living on their streets. On one hand, Boulder has some of the most expansive and progressive homeless services in the nation; on the other hand, the governing principles are clearly punitive.

And so, in addition to the transient and alternative lifestyle campers that we see come through our area, many 'standard' homeless people feel the need to flee from Boulder, toward legal and free camping that remains a bus ride or hitch back down to job training, recovery programs and their full support system.

It seems that across the nation, the only other area that deals with such a large urban homeless population, served well, within easy access of open and free public camping, is Portland and the Willamette Valley. Their winters are milder, so theirs is a year-long issue; but it's not clear that Portland makes it so desirable for folks to camp beside small towns like ours.

Second, a few months ago there was an interesting case at a Federal court in Boise. The details are still to be worked out, but the basic ruling was that such ordinances against sleeping outside are unconstitutional, insofar as they criminalise the situation of homelessness, rather than any particular behavior.

There is a lot to parse between government definitions of "homelessness" and, for instance, the crowds that we see. Yet, this ruling could have far-reaching effects for Denver, Boulder, and even Nederland. The town of Durango [Continued on page 2]

has apparently already spent a fortune defending itself from a similar lawsuit. And many local governments are feeling the need to rethink how they approach homeless management.

Salt Lake City has shown success with providing apartments and extensive support services, which cost less than emergency rooms and jail time, and offer far more transformative outcomes.

Third, the national offices of the US Forest Service studied long-term homeless encampments on public land. They discovered that it is a problem nationwide, especially through the Rocky Mountains and Pacific coast. Long-term homeless camping is growing in about half the areas, most quickly here and in the south.

The largest group (which we don't see as often) are poor retirees living in RVs. Otherwise, it is very common to see folks separating from society, or the standard homeless camping in groups or as families.

The larger alternative lifestyle groups that we have seen here for decades are a much smaller percentage across the nation.

Otherwise, the USFS finds considerable numbers of seasonal migrant workers, forest professionals, students, fugitives, and runaways.

The report advises Forest Service districts to do a few things.

Foremost, work with local agencies, churches, and human services: which is happening.

Second, build relationships between

Fellowship — Thank You!

Many thanks to all of NCPC congregants who hosted Fellowship in January and February:

Nancy W & Marylou, Mark & Becky, Jackie & Jason, Bob & Cinda, Lynne & Amy T, Marilyn & Phyllis, Amy W, Judy & Jim.

Also thanks to those who fill our freezer with goodies (Amy H).

We have all enjoyed laughing and sharing over delicious cookies, muffins, chips and salsa, veggies, nuts, and fruit.

Keep signing up on the chart on the church kitchen door or call/text email Kathleenjhenningsen@gmail.com or 303-717-6440 if you can host for one Sunday.

Upcoming Fellowship hosting:

2/28: sisters Marilyn (Snavelly) Yates and Phyllis (Snavelly) Yates (Their father was a

other law enforcement agencies to better identify the campers: a top priority from the last NICHE meeting.

Third, communicate better with the campers: we are about to print a camper-specific packet of helpful information.

Fourth, adjust some Forest Service policies: which is proving hard, although our district is presenting five policy options at our next meeting. And very important to them, minimize any assistance that enables and encourages homeless camping...

Hmm, that last one is tough. Jesus was homeless, at least during his ministry. He told us to serve those in need, with compassion and charity. He wants us to challenge the system that causes these problems, and create a more just world.

The Old Testament was adamant that **hospitality to stranger is a principle value.**

And so, in partnership with many people and organizations around Nederland, this church hosts the Summer Socks and Sandwiches program. We plan on continuing that outreach.

Does a pair of socks and one meal a week enable folks to ill behavior? I doubt it.

Does it encourage camping, when we offer to pick up trash services at the campsites?

Again, probably not, although I understand the concern that some people in our community have: that by aiming to help those in true need, we also support others who cause many problems.

To some degree, I have to admit, that has some truth, and maybe we can adjust some of the ways in which we serve, to

previous pastor at NCPC.)

3/6: Amy Wells

3/13: Judy and Jim Hubbard

3/20: Marylou and Dan Harrison

3/27: (Kathleen Henningsen and helpers)...TBA

really focus more on those in need.

And yet, Jesus described love as extravagant grace, and certainly never rationed his kindness.

The priority, at least as I understand it, is to enact the Good News, in our little corner of the world.

We can do that by personal service and compassion, through peacemaking by breaking down barriers, and with systematic change by reforming with justice.

When you hear folks in our community ravaging 'those' people, maybe you can share with your neighbors that many of 'those' people are truly in crisis, and swept up the mountain as unwanted burdens of civilized society.

Maybe you can offer to your neighbors an opportunity to help and to heal the wounds involved in homeless camping.

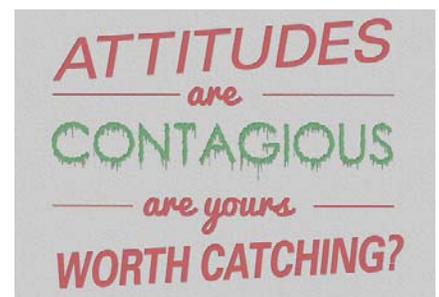
Maybe you pray not to get jaded by the anger.

Our church is on the front lines of this work, in one of the places most affected by homeless camping, at a time when the problem is growing and spreading across the nation.

As wild as this sounds, for such a time as this, we literally have a chance to shape a nationwide response, and impact the lives of tens of thousands of the least of these.

Let that sink in, little brown church...

I invite you to keep considering this issue with open hearts, open minds, and open doors.



Do you have questions or comments about NCPC?

In the Presbyterian denomination, the ministry of administration for each congregation is handled by its Session of Elders (like a spiritual Board of Trustees), and the ministry of compassion is directed by the Deacons.

Here are your church leaders and staff:

- Elder for Christian Ed, Aimee Tomlinson
- Elder for Fellowship, Kathleen Henningsen
- Elder for Finance, Marylou Harrison
- Elder for Mission, Dennis Whalen
- Elder for Property, Jim Reis

- Elder for Worship, Dean Rundle
- Deacon, David Ford
- Deacon, Katie Haynes
- Deacon, Tricia Stiefer
- Deacon, Bette Ventrella
- Treasurer, Wes Stiefer
- Piano, Daniel Herman
- Childcare, Pam North
- Custodian John Callahan
- Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt

Corner for Youth

A place for news, reports and updates on our church youth AND a place for our youth to let folks know what's happening, what's needed, your concerns. Let your VOICE be heard!!

THE YOUTH GROUP religious diversity program has been a blast! We learned about Buddhism in January, and earth-centered Native American spirituality in February.

Upcoming, we get to discover a whole group of less familiar faith traditions from Asia and the Middle East: Taoism, Sikhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Baha'i.

Teenagers (or so), you can come to the **fellowship hall on 13 Mar 11:45**, for lunch and fun together. *All young people in town are invited.*

(Adults, be patient, until maybe next year, to have your own series like this.)

Also, one Wednesday a month, Youth Group gathers to figure out what makes their Christian heritage unique and meaningful. See you there on **30 Mar 6:30, with dinner!**

Sunday School

"Jesus loves me this I know..."

- Nancy Waldron

Yes, our children are learning and singing about this amazing love God has for us. They tumble into the warm, inviting room decorated with bright posters and are welcomed with enthusiasm and kindness.

We gather on the inviting rug with song and then learn about a Bible teaching reinforced with a game, story, sharing time, a craft and a closing prayer. (One child exclaimed last week, "Hey, look at this rug! I'm going to sit on this space...what does it say?")



The word "Faith" was written in that space and we took a minute to discuss what that meant. The time just flows, along with the laughter, joy and sharing.

All through March we will be learning about the Easter Story and we'll have a

March Birthdays

1 Larry James	17 Steve Filer
2 Schubert Ogden	17 Craig Skeie
3 Charlie Collier	18 Jim Stevens
4 Marylou Harrison	20 Mary Wingate
5 Rhonda Skeie	28 Judy Anderson

Mission

Mission Team

- Dennis Whalen

The Clothing Closet, which has been closed every year during June so the Mountain Forum For Peace can use the clothing racks for their yard sale, will remain closed during July in 2016.

The intention of the Clothing Closet is to provide clothing during the Winter months. This combined with the difficulty of getting volunteers during the Summer months necessitates this adjustment in hours.

Twenty-six percent of the Nederland Food Pantry clients are from Gilpin County. The Nederland Food Pantry is seeking ways to better work with Gilpin County. As part of this effort we met with the Gilpin County commissioners and Gilpin County Director of Housing and Human Services to better understand the Summer needs for kids utilizing the summer lunch program that attend the Gilpin County school.

Our hope is to have food available for these children during the Summer months in addition to those attending the Boulder Valley schools.

The Nederland Food Pantry continues to offer the opportunity for people to complete Court mandated Community Service Hours. This continues to be very helpful for the Food Pantry as well as for the people needing to complete hours.

The Food Pantry fund raiser is already being planned for **April 30** at the Community Center. Please save this date for an exciting auction and other fun events.

special Children's Time presentation On Easter Sunday!

All youngsters between pre-K and 5th grade are welcome to join us at 9am any Sunday! If you are willing to join us as a back-up teacher, please know that all lesson plans and supplies are all on file and ready to go! Just bring your smile and open arms! Please contact Aimee Tomlinson or Nancy Waldron.

Update —Rocky Mountain Mission

We currently have five churches lined up to take part in the Rocky Mountain Mission summer 2016 program!

We will welcome young folks from White Bear Lake, Minnesota; Fort Calhoun, Nebraska; Houston, Texas; along with groups from Denver & Boulder.

The teenagers will eat and sleep at the church, do outreach work around the community, and learn about their place in God's great drama, through the wonder of our mountains.

Here are a few things you could do, to help support these young folks coming into our community.

- Do you know of someone of lesser means, who might need work on their house, or other help?
- Are you part of a service organization that has a labor-intensive project teens could help with?
- Can you cook a meal for a dozen or fifteen folks, to welcome one of our groups?
- This is the hard one... Might you be able to offer a shower for a few kids, so they don't have to drive and pay at the Gilpin Rec Center through the week?

In our Prayers

Please keep these folks and circumstances in your daily thoughts and prayers:

Violet Aanders and Rich Deubel; Judy Anderson; Anastasia and family; Delores Cieloha; Rev Gibney's brother; Janet Irwin; Linda Jones; Holly, Mikey and Miles Kreps; Kaitlyn Lammers; Chuck Miller; Karen Moss; Carol Nowak; Morggan O'Neill; Miles Pancoast and family; Torin Perret; The Family of Matt Shannon; Rhonda Skeie and family; Gail and David Skinner; Mike Smith; The Family of Jerry Snavelly; Jim Stevens; Keri Stiller; Vince Suich; Pat Whalen; love and consideration within the church and denomination; for those serving in the military.



March Anniversary

27 Dan and Marylou Harrison

*The highest forms of understanding we can achieve are **laughter** and **human compassion**.*

*- Richard Feynman (1988)
What Do You Care What Other People Think?*

A Compassionate Life: the Third Step Compassion for Yourself

— Gary Ennor

If you were to sum up the Third Step in a single sentence it would be: We must have compassion for ourselves, with all our strengths, weaknesses and idiosyncrasies, if we are to have genuine compassion for others.

Armstrong opens with a reflection on what rabbi Albert Friedlander taught her about the biblical commandment “Love your neighbor as yourself.” As a child of around eight years, faced with relentless persecution in a nascent Nazi Germany, he lay awake one night and listed all his good qualities and then knew he was not what the Nazis said.

Years later he said that he could never have done good in the world if he hadn’t learned at that moment to love himself.

Armstrong notes that her focus had always been on her neighbor and never on herself. Friedlander taught her that one cannot love others if one cannot love them self.

Similarly, we must learn compassion for ourselves if we are to learn compassion for others.

However, do not despair — compassion is a fundamental characteristic of what it is to be human — even if it has not been nurtured and cultivated for years.

“A sense of humor is also important: we should be able to smile wryly but gently at our failings...” This can be a bit dicey for some of you if you’re more accustomed to laughing at your reflections perceived in others; often misapprehended as laughing at something or another.

Armstrong goes on to note that *fear... makes us wary and suspicious: instead of reaching out to others, we shrink back into ourselves....*

If we choose growth and maturation, we must confront and push through our fears. The ancient sages of the Hindu Upanishads learned that their fears fell away as they adopted mind-training regimens and a compassionate lifestyle.

In Psychology 101 I learned about “desensitization,” a method of dealing with an emotion through continual exposure to it. For one with a deep phobia of the wind — its sounds and sensations — associated with severe earaches as a toddler, moving to Nederland proved the accuracy of Psychology 101!

Pushing yourself through your fears

and barriers, like an extreme sport or running a marathon, isn’t something you do 24/7. You need a respite to recharge your batteries and commitment.

Personally, I find encouragement in Pierre Teilhard de Chardin’s remark that *we are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.*

For me, it’s a reminder to pick myself up and press on, for I never know how long this sojourn will last and I want to learn as much as I can.

Jesus said, “Love your enemies...” That’s a tall order. Armstrong suggests that *we often attack other people for precisely those qualities that we most dislike in ourselves.* It’s such mirror reflections we must learn from to enhance our practice of compassion — for ourselves and others.

An ancient Master was reported to have said: *That about another which displeases*

you is but a reflection of your inner consciousness. When you can see about you only GOOD, then may you know your heart is right....

We need to remind ourselves of such wisdom when we project our fears and insecurities onto others; particularly if incited by an immature or manipulative media focusing non constructively on dissimilar groups and religious practices.

The Dalai Lama reminds us that compassion is not possible without personal restraint: *we cannot be loving and compassionate unless at the same time we curb our own harmful impulses and desires.* This applies to our thinking and speaking too; both need to be corralled and tamed — continually for some of us.

Paul puts it well in **1 Corinthians 13**. No need here to quote it. Set this newsletter aside, find your Bible and read it — Now!

Next month: The Fourth Step - Empathy

Compassion Cultivation Training

Do you crave a more authentic connection with others during your daily interactions, wanting to see life through a more compassionate lens? Learn to intentionally choose compassionate thoughts and actions that help relate to others and yourself in a more connected way. Register today for Stanford University’s Compassion Cultivation Training (CCT) lead by Certified CCT Teacher, Amanda D. Mahoney, MA.

Location: Boulder YWCA
2222 14th St., Boulder

Date: 8 consecutive Tuesdays,
March 29 - May 17, 2016

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Register at: ColoradoCCT.com

Tel: 970-235-0898 | Web: coloradocct.com | Email: amanda@coloradocct.com | [twitter coloradocct](https://twitter.com/coloradocct)

Another Way to Stretch Yourself

Stretch Class - Certified Group Exercise Instructor and Personal Trainer Carrie Westcott offers us a gentle stretch class on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m., beginning Wednesday, March 2, at NCPC.

Classes are open to all levels.

The first six weeks are offered at no charge with a requested free will donation and will continue as a drop-in class for a low fee. [{Source: Nederland Area Seniors newsletter}](#)



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday & Sunday

March 12 & 13, 2016

8am - 11am

Nederland Community Center

(1/2 Mile West of Traffic Circle on Hwy 72)

\$8 Adult, \$5 Senior Requested Contribution, \$4 Under 12

Includes Eggs, Sausage, Yogurt, Granola, Banana, Coffee, Juice

50/50 **Pot o' Gold**
Cash Split **RAFFLE**



Raffle Tickets
\$1 each or 6 for \$5
Winner Drawing 03/16/16
Need Not Be Present to Win
License #2016-10740



We hope that you will attend and help to address the specific issues facing our unique community.



Prevention Coalition "Data Walk" kickoff event!

We will be reforming and building on the past successes of the Peak To Peak Prevention Coalition and working collaboratively with community members throughout our mountain region to promote positive youth outcomes. This event will provide local and county-wide data regarding our youth and provoke conversations on how we can co-create a healthier, thriving community environment from early childhood through adolescence.
All voices matter!

Wed-March 2nd

When: Wednesday - March 2nd
Time: 6pm - 8pm

Where: Ned Community Center - MPR

Details: A light dinner will be provided. Please let me know if childcare is needed: lonnie@teensinc.org



COLORADO
Office of Behavioral Health
Department of Human Services



NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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