

# 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

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JUNE 2016



## Socks and Sandwiches



We return to our awesome summer ministry this June 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Each Thursday at noon, behind the church in the Guyer Garden, we'll be serving sandwiches and passing out socks and other humanitarian items, for our neighbors in need. Anyone is welcome: children who don't get their free and reduced school lunches during the summer, homeless campers, anyone who feels drawn to a meal together. In the first two years of this program, we've seen some great peace and good-will built up for the community, as well as the simple outreach of offering a helping hand. Talk to Hansen, if you can help volunteer!

## Deacons

The Deacons care for our congregation and community in many ways. One way is by bringing meals to people in need.



But there are only a few of them, and a whole bunch of you who can cook.

So, if you would be willing, once in a while, to make a meal for someone who is sick, please tell Tricia Stiefer or David Ford to put you on the list, and the Deacons will get in touch when it is needed.

## Worship in June

Our latest worship series, May 29 through June 19 will be the perfect time to invite your friends who might be a little more hesitant about Church. Let's face it, there are a lot of weird things about Christianity: some of the stories, ways people describe their beliefs, how some folks act, weird pastors on television... This series, *It's Not That Weird*, will try to connect especially to people with questions and suspicions about faith—which might be some of you, alongside all the new folk we hope to introduce to this church family. Let's grow our community, deeper and wider!



## Church Clean-Up Day Saturday – June 4 – 09:00-1200

Here's an opportunity to serve your church.

We will be sprucing things up for the summer season and planting flowers.

*Come on over* and help remove weeds, plant flowers and generally clean and straighten things up.

Any donated flowers for planting in the serenity garden would be appreciated.

## Thanks . . .

—Hansen

. . . to everyone who helped fill in to keep the church doing ministry, as Hansen started recovering from shoulder surgery.

Especial gratitude goes to our guest preachers, Gary Ennor (who spoke about God's motherly characteristics on 8

May), Kathleen Henningsen (who spoke about her amazing journey in Nepal on 15 May), and Maria Shupe (who came from Highlands Camp on 22 May).

The Pastor is back in the office now, ready to serve!

**The Spirit of the Mountain Lutheran Church** will host a Faith and Grief Brunch at the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association Hall (31528 CO-72, Golden), on Saturday, 18 June at 10 am.

This brunch comforts the bereaved through fellowship and breaking bread together. There is no charge, but reservations are required.

Please RSVP to Jim or Cathy Monkman at (303)731-5803.

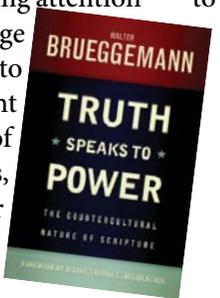
For more information regarding this ministry go to [www.FaithandGrief.org](http://www.FaithandGrief.org).

**Book Club** is *moving* from Tuesday evenings to *Wednesday* evenings at 6 p. m.

We start our new book on 15 June: *Truth Speaks to Power*, by Walter Brueggemann.

The world's leading Old Testament / Hebrew Bible scholar uses characters and themes from our ancient wisdom, to point us toward political action for today. He

is adamant in the introduction that there is no direct line from Scripture to a particular political agenda/party/vote, yet that paying attention to God's message pushes us to ask the right questions of our leaders, inspires our political action, and moves us to consider countercultural ways of loving our neighbors.



## Coffee and Conversation

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

## Memorial Day

message from Dr. Jack Graham Ministries  
Daily Devotional

John Bunyan, author of the book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, said; *"You haven't lived today until you've done something for someone who cannot pay you back."*

That is such a powerful truth, and few people in America understand its meaning as well as those who serve in the U.S. military.

Since America's struggle for independence from Britain to today's global war against terrorism, countless men and women have answered duty's call. They have performed a tremendous service that cannot be repaid. Untold numbers have made the ultimate sacrifice... giving their life's blood for the cause of freedom.

Maybe you are the loved one or a friend of one of these who has died for our country.

### Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life — Step Six: Action

In the opening paragraphs of the Sixth Step, Karen Armstrong recounts how a simple act of kindness can turn a life around. It may be an encouraging word or a small act of service.

In her case it was the final words she heard from a dying nun: *You are a good girl, Sister.*

These few words were a balm to the heart of a struggling young woman who wasn't quite cut out for life as a nun.

Wordsworth noted in *The Preface* that *"there are in our existence spots of time"* in which *"our minds are nourished and invisibly repaired."*

Armstrong encourages us to consciously create "spots of time" for others for, as Wordsworth wrote in another poem, *"little, nameless, unremembered, acts of kindness and of love."*

Can you remember being the recipient of such kindness and love? Or is it easier to remember the antithesis, a word or act that wounded you to the depths of your being? Armstrong notes that the latter have the power to fester and take on a power within our hearts and minds that the speaker never intended; and has probably long forgotten and would be astonished to learn of your hurt.

Those who argue that the Golden Rule doesn't work do so intellectually. Such dictums are meant to be implemented and practiced; not discussed and argued over like some philosophical treatise.

This is a slow, incremental journey that

If so, you, too, have made a sacrifice that many cannot even imagine. But Jesus recognized just such sacrifice in John 15:13 when he said, *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*

This Memorial Day, let's remember the courageous men and women who have given their lives to ensure our freedom... or to give the precious gift of freedom to another nation.

May their patriotism and their love for God and country inspire us to do something selfless for our fellow man.

*"YOU HAVEN'T LIVED TODAY UNTIL YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE WHO CANNOT PAY YOU BACK."*

*Jim Reis read this message during our worship service on May 29, 2016. In addition to the truth in the quote from The Pilgrim's Progress, Jim noted that those who serve in the military are under oath to serve the country - that's you and me folks - whether they agree with the politics of the country or not.*

we often feel yields no progress. Robert Theobald, a futurist, advised never looking back less than six months, preferably a year, or we tend to discourage ourselves.

Begin now to look for opportunities to create "spots of time" in another's life; a spot for compassion and kindness. Make an effort to change your habitual thought patterns — perhaps of others — changing an unkind thought or withholding charged words.

However, remember to have compassion for yourself. When you notice missed opportunities — and we all see our own — Armstrong suggests that you *"smile wryly at your omission, and resolve to do better tomorrow."*

### Compassion Cultivation Training (CCT)

I enrolled in CCT with no expectations but much interest and curiosity. I did wonder about the outcome.

I didn't really understand what compassion is, or might be, and I had a general antipathy for the word "suffering," probably because I'd avoided much thought about it.

I remember being around 6 years old and wondering with my older sister of 8 what it must be like to be 22 years old and stay out until 2:30 in the morning. (A family friend's son had done so.) We were not capable of imagining being 22 or grasping mentally why one would stay up beyond bedtime; our awareness was simply not

old enough to perceive. Unlike the kitten, we had no mirror to reflect another reality.

Similarly, my perceptions evolved over the 8-week course.

Initially, I perceived it would just be a process of shedding old and habitual ways of thinking and interacting with the world beyond me.

Well, it's more than that.

It's also a process of shedding old and habitual ways of thinking of, talking to and interacting with me; perhaps the spiritual being wrestling with the ego.

And it's more than that.

What becomes of the snake when it sloughs off its old skin? Well, nothing. It's still a snake!

More than shedding old patterns of thought and action, I now perceive Compassionate Cultivation Training beginning a process of transformation; in my case, a strong emphasis on *beginning*.

The natural metaphor that springs to mind is that of the caterpillar *beginning* to weave or craft a cocoon. We have no



way of knowing if a caterpillar perceives, at some level, the transformation that will occur.

From our point of view, what comes out of that cocoon is not what went into it.



So I perceive it is with CCT; the beginning of a process, the end of which we cannot perceive at our present level of awareness. Our awareness must be transformed.

Also, it seems like Christ's call to us; follow him truly and become transformed. It's a beginning. And it's more than that.

(More info on CCT at: <http://ccare.stanford.edu/cct-details>)

— Gary Ennor

Next Column



## 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!!

### Rocky Mountain Mission

The first two Rocky Mountain Mission groups arrive this month!

A Denver/Boulder church group comes 19-25 June, and youth from New Mexico come 26 June through 2 July.

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.

Talk to RMM Coordinator Wes Stiefer ([ncpctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ncpctreasurer@gmail.com)), if you can help make them at home, or know of a good project they could do to help our neighbors.



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

All the youth and leaders in churches that will be participating in Rocky Mountain Mission; Judy Anderson; Doug Armitage; Anastasia and Brooke Blinbry; Willi & John Brocklehurst; Marylou Harrison's family; Mike Haynes; Robert Manes; Morggan O'Neill; Miles Pancoast and family; Torin Perret and family; Russ Peterson; Rhonda Skeie; Mike Smith; Jim Stevens; Vince Suich; Love and consideration within churches and denominations in turmoil; For those serving in the military; Safe travels for all our summer partners at church.

### 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  
Director of Music Ministries, Annie Savage  
Piano, Daniel Herman  
Rocky Mountain Mission Coordinator, Wes Stiefer  
Childcare, Pam North  
Custodian John Callahan  
Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt

## Mission

### Mission Team

- Dennis Whalen

With 312 people served last month and 730 pounds of outside food donated (not including that from Boulder's Community Food Share) the Food Pantry continues to provide food for the same number, or possibly a slight increase, as for past months and years.

The people coming to the Food Pantry are now spread more evenly between Thursdays and Saturdays when the Food Pantry is open.

The Clothing Closet will be closed starting May 28 so the racks that are on loan from Mountain Forum For Peace can be used for their yearly fund raiser. It will remain closed over the Summer months and reopen in mid August in time for the start of school.

The Food Pantry has vouchers for clean-up that can be passed onto clients for the Nederland June 4 clean-up day. This will allow clients to more actively participate in the town's clean-up and benefit both them and the town.

Plans are being finalized to provide lunch bags to the estimated 25 families where the children will not have access to lunches during the Summer months when Summer school is in session. These will be packed Wednesday afternoons for

distribution on Thursdays.

Efforts are underway with the Insurance company to clarify the possible use of the Food Pantry van by other organizations, such as the Rocky Mountain Mission program.

Kristi Venditti, who is now working 10 hours/week as the Mountain Human Services Collaborative, is fully up-to-speed with her training and has been extremely busy establishing relationships with community leaders across the Peak To Peak region, and with providing assistance for those families and individuals with needs. Efforts are underway to identify additional funding sources for future years.

The Food Pantry's garden as been started for 2016 and is already growing vegetables for distribution to our clients.

Plans are being made for a Food Pantry Board retreat during the Summer allowing the Board to work on a long term vision - 3-5 years - for the Food Pantry.

The Nederland Food Pantry's annual fund raiser was Saturday, May 21 at the Community Center. It's theme was "The Madcap Holidays of May" and included a silent auction, food, beer and wine, and the opportunity to play various games.



Singing in the choir? What better place to serve, grow and have fun. The choir is always looking for folks to come and lend their voices to our worship together. Contact Annie Savage for more info. May 29 was a bit thin and 3 brave souls carried the day!



### Men's Group

usually meets on **MEN'S GROUP** the third Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. This month, however, that would be Father's Day. So, this month we'll aim for **June 12 at Salto**.

### June Anniversaries

- 5 Dennis & Dorothy Whalen
- 6 Linda & Robert Bennett
- 6 Debbie & Jim Stevens
- 7 Genette & Jim Sizer
- 9 Aimee & Jeremy Tomlinson
- 20 Pam & Paul Friskopp
- 27 Charlie & Donna Collier
- 29 Al & Diana Nelson

### June Birthdays

- 5 Gary Ennor
- 5 Sibyl Goerner
- 15 Liz Ford
- 16 Tricia Stiefer
- 20 Tamara Haynes