

# 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

NOVEMBER 2016

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## Worship in Advent & the Christmas Season

I can't quite believe we are already gearing up for Christmas... But there are some very special plans for how we can make this season a special one here at NCPC!

Advent begins on 27 November, to mark the holy preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and God's dramatic presence in the world. Many folks have Advent calendars, where they might eat a piece of chocolate every day through Christmas—as if we need more holiday candy. How about, instead, this year we make Advent baskets, where each day your family puts into a box or basket, a canned good or hygiene product? Bring the whole thing to worship on Christmas Day, or to church sometime that week, and we will deliver the whole collection to the Food Pantry!

Christmas Eve is always one of the most holy times of the year. Again this year we will have a 5 pm Family-Friendly Worship

### NAS Silent Auction

Nederland Area Seniors hosts the Holiday Mountain Market and Silent Auction on **December 3 & 4**.

If you dine out, buy services, or shop regularly in town or “down below”, please ask if they would like to gain visibility for their business in the mountains by donating to the NAS silent auction.

Service, but we are also bringing back the children's pageant! Then, as is becoming tradition, there will be a short time for the Christmas Cookie Pot-Luck. And finally, we will close our evening with the Contemplative Candlelight Worship Service, this year including a choir cantata.

Christmas lands on a Sunday this year. Certainly many of us will be lounging with cinnamon rolls and wrapping paper that morning. So, in order to honor this holy day, and offer families the time to celebrate together, worship will not be at 10 am. Instead, you are invited to gather at 1 pm, for a simple, hands-on, interactive, free-flowing time of worship.

And when Christmas is on a Sunday, so is New Year's Day. Worship will be back at 10 am that day, with a service of lessons and carols—that's a short message, with prayer and Scripture, and your requests for sacred Christmas music.

NAS needs all donations by Nov 18. NAS can provide paperwork regarding its tax-exempt status, a solicitation letter, and a form to submit the item — leave a message at 303-258-0799 or email [NederlandAreaSeniors@gmail.com](mailto:NederlandAreaSeniors@gmail.com). Thank you for considering supporting this all-community event in this way!

## Religious Literacy Series

Our first Religious Literacy event was a great success, with around 40 folks coming to learn about Islam from a handful of Boulder Muslims that we met through an Eldora friend.

Donna from Pennsylvania told us about being married to her Muslim husband for 35 years, before making her own choice to convert ten years ago. Hers was a story of women's empowerment and freedom to surrender to God, rather than feeling bound to the world's expectations.

Farrah is a Bangladeshi-Canadian who wears a fashionable hijab as she chases her kids to and from the day-care center. While she certainly appears exotic to many Americans, her name comes not from Arabic or Bengali, but from her parents' favorite actress, one Ms. Fawcett!

Saied, from Egypt, humbly explained many of the foundations of Islam, with the same crisp precision as his pleated golf pants and CU Buffalo ball cap.

Another Egyptian-American boy, maybe 8 years old, told us about five-time daily prayer as a vital practice of Muslims, along with the other pillars: the hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, charity to the needy, a month of fasting while the sun is up,

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## NICHE Update

Hansen is still presiding over the Nederland-area Inter-agency Council on Homeless Encampments. A few updates...

Hansen is talking seriously with the Governor's office about funding a social worker who can interact directly with homeless up here, connect them with services down below, and encourage them to find better places to live.

We are paying close attention to some interesting legal developments. Some west-coast cities have begun to declare themselves in an official state-of-emergency regarding homelessness.

This has freed up governing councils to respond faster, cut through red tape, help people in immediate trouble, and protect communities facing present danger.

As well, Seattle has received the first blessing from the Department of Justice for a comprehensive plan to deal with urban encampments. (This has been a tricky political issue, since the 2014 federal case in Boise, which basically declared many city ordinances concerning homelessness unconstitutional.)

Hansen met with Boulder's Municipal Judge about helping educate any homeless who receive camping tickets in the city. If that office and

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and the declaration that there is one God. Hadi is Indian, and understands why Americans are so interested in Islam, angry at ISIS, and uncertain about the Koran. So he gave Hansen a study Koran, not simply an English translation, but an intertextual scholarly commentary. Some folks brought pita, hummus, and samosas. Others answered more questions about sharia law, angels/djinni, Jesus' and Mary's role in Islam, and much more.

The next Religious Literacy event will be 6 November, where Leaf Running Rabbit will teach us about Native American Spirituality. He has a great trunk of artifacts and ritualistic items, such as sage sticks, an eagle's talon, and sacred drum. We'll learn what it looks like for religion and respect for the earth to hang so closely together. Come with questions about Standing Rock, totem poles, Great Spirit, Black Elk, or whatever. (And Hansen asks that you be prepared to practice a frozen rain dance!)

Atashnaa Medicine Shield will make a great lunch based on some native diets (squash, bean, corn, jerky, nuts & berries), and she will help us to understand the diverse beliefs and traditions across the peoples of this continent. All are welcome to stick around after worship, 11:45-1:15, and of course, invite your friends!

Future Religious Literacy events:

- December 11 – Judaism
- January 22 – Buddhism
- February 12 – Hinduism
- March 19 – Wicca
- April ? – Taoism and other Eastern faiths
- May 7 & 14 – Mormon and Christianity

### November Birthdays

5 Charlene Morrison	24 Floy Walberg
5 Debbie Stevens	25 Dan Harrison
6 Dave Blanchard	25 Janice Rundle
9 Hayden Hardt-Zeman	26 Eleanor Busch
10 Russ Peterson	27 Pat Ennor
11 Kathleen Henningsen	30 Charlie Allen
17 Cinda Kochen	30 Mark Haynes

### November Anniversary

23<sup>rd</sup> Bob & Cinda Kochen

the Homeless Outreach Team (Boulder Police) can send people to shelters and agencies, they won't need to share information about free, legal camping at West Magnolia, where folks in need cannot easily receive the help they need.

NICHE is meeting in November to talk further about how to discourage homeless and home-free folks from coming here to camp (emphasizing weather reports at the Shelter, discouraging hitchhiking up here), how to better connect with and educate the ones who do come here (camping flyers, better signs, more police presence in the campsites), and how to protect the town from homeless who do not know how to camp safely (fixing broken fire rings, placing water in campsites).

We will also discuss the many proposals going around, about what to do with West Magnolia.

Hansen is also talking with a variety of national agencies and experts about funding a study that analyzes why the homeless are moving out of cities and into forests, what problems they face, what problems small communities like ours face, what strategies seem to work, and how we could implement local and broad solutions here and across the nation.

### In Our Prayers

Judy Anderson; Doug Armitage; Willi & John Brocklehurst; Rich Deubel; Crystal Epperson; Don Henningsen; Doris Hobaugh; Robert Manes; Shelley Millican; Miles Pancoast and family; Torin Perret and family; Russ Peterson; Rhonda Skeie; Mike Smith; Jim Stevens; Vince Such; Lorena Yolo; For those serving in the military.



## Mission

Mission Team – Dennis Whalen

The Food Pantry is formalizing its joint efforts with the Clothing Closet to help make it clear that we're working together to serve the needs of the Nederland Community.

The Food Pantry is working less formally with Canyon Cares to help individuals and families with short term financial needs. For example, most recently Canyon Cares was able to help a family (3 kids) who is homeless get needed car repairs so that the parents could continue working at their jobs.

Currently no larger agency provides help with needed car repairs and, in our mountain environment, the lack of transportation can easily result in the loss of employment and cause homelessness.

The Food Pantry has completed a survey of its clients asking what percentage of their household income is dedicated to housing. The average is 60-90%. Based on these results, and other related information, the Food Pantry has changed its policy and is now allowing local clients to come to the Food Pantry more than once a month. Those in need will, hopefully, not have to choose between a home and food.

The Food Pantry is still awaiting final 'blessing' from Colorado Gives so we can be a choice for donations via that option. In addition applications are being completed to receive some funding support for the 25% of the Food Pantry's and Clothing Closet's clients that come from Gilpin County.

Working through the Housing and Human Services Task Force, we expect to have a full compliment of Boulder County agencies and the Emergency Family Assistance Association available to provide counseling and access to available services for those with needs on the first and last Thursday of every month from 10:00 am until noon. This will be the same time that the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are open, thus making it convenient for our clients.

The Health and Human Services fair that will include Thanksgiving baskets provided by the Emergency Family Assistance Associations is on Nov 12, and Holidays Boxes, toys and clothing will be provided by the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet on December 10.

## Mission

### Stop Hunger Now!

More than 50 people from the Nederland area came to the Teen Center in October, to help pack meals for hungry children. About half the folks were from the church, along with friends from Girl Scouts, Lions Club, and the Food Pantry.

In about two hours, we finished packing exactly 11,016 meals!

Little ones were running baskets around, absolutely excited about being able to play a vital role in this mission event. Older ones were stretching between smiles and laughter. Strong backs were emptying huge bags of rice, soy, and dried veg, alongside small bags of vitamin packets. And once the meals were packed, weighed, and sealed, our most organized folks were filling boxes to ship.

A couple weeks later we learned that Stop Hunger Now has shipped our meals! Our efforts were added to a shipment of 285,000 meals heading to El Salvador. They will be sourced through Convoy of Hope (which works to feed children, build community, assist with disasters, support agriculture, and empower women) and Latin American Child Care (“providing hope and a bright future for children living in poverty”).

Particularly, this shipment is designated to assist a district of 6000 school children, providing lunch to them all for more than 9 weeks! As well, Convoy will also be working in the same communities, with some 4000 adults, to provide cleaner water and agricultural opportunities.

Thank you all for your support of this project to bring Nederland together, in service to the world.

And remember, at only 35 cents a meal, a little change can make a lot of difference. It's never too early to get ready for 17,000 meals in 2017!

Learn more at [www.stophungernow.org](http://www.stophungernow.org).



## Stewardship

### Online Giving

Sure, there is an offering plate every Sunday. But if you can't come to worship, or don't carry cash, now you can also give to NCPC on-line!

Try it out at [www.nederlandcpc.org](http://www.nederlandcpc.org), with the obvious “Give Now” button.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to support the great things God is doing in this community!

## Children and 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!!

### Children's Ministry

Kids Pre-K-5th grade join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 for Sunday School fun!

(No Sunday school November 20 or 27 - we are traveling for Thanksgiving)

Calling all kids for our Christmas play on Christmas Eve! Practice in December in Sunday School and Childcare. Come to one practice or to all - there's a part for everyone.

Please let Aimee, Nancy, or Sara know if your child can join us.



### Youth Group

Young folks are going to the Terror in the Corn, Fall Festival, and Corn Maze on 30 October! Meet at the church at 5 pm, and we'll pick up with the St Andrew Presbyterian youth! Wear warm enough clothes.

Then, youth are invited to the annual Christmas tree selection and decoration, on 27 November. We'll leave just after church, return with a perfect tree, sip some cocoa, and make the whole sanctuary festive. Again, warm clothes!



## The Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

by Karen Armstrong

### Step Eleven - Recognition

Armstrong opens this next to the last step with a story of Christina Noble who was an abandoned and abused child of the streets in Dublin before escaping to England. There she endured an abusive marriage while raising a family. After leaving that relationship she began a successful catering company with the help of her new partner.

However, she never forgot a powerful dream she had had of frightened children running toward her and the word *Vietnam* emblazoned above the image; she felt destined to help them.

In 1989 she visited Vietnam where she saw her own childhood suffering in the face of a street child and recognized both her calling and that there is no “us” and “them.”

When she returned to London, friends said what she wanted to create was impossible because she was only one person.

“One,” is very important to Christina; she recalled that as a child she only needed one person to believe in her and to understand her pain and suffering.

As we evolve into a compassion ethos, we begin to develop what Tibetan Buddhists call “*the inability to bear the sight of another’s sorrow.*”

Fearing “compassion fatigue,” it’s easy to feel we can personally do nothing to help. This may lead us to dismiss the misery and suffering of others as “nothing to do with us.”

Christine’s story illustrates that we too can have moments of recognition; recognizing that confronting our fears and exposing ourselves to the suffering of others is a spiritual opportunity.

We can learn to extend our hospitality to others — to “make place for the other” in our lives — and develop a concern for everyone as a result.

There is a need that you — and only you — can fill in the world. Without your contribution, the puzzle can not be complete.

**Next Month:** THE TWELFTH STEP - Love Your Enemies

### Ned Pres in the News

If you don’t get the Mountain Ear, you’re missing out on some of the good things happening around here! In recent editions, you can read about...

Crystal Epperson’s ordeal with falling down a mine shaft, breaking her pelvis, crawling her way to the house, and being rescued by our own Bette Ventrella and the Smart Family,

The Peace Ceremony to help folks move past the fear and anxiety of the bomb threat,

Hansen and Michael O’Neill planting seeds and hope with third graders who want to move through their emotions with the Cold Springs Fire,

Great pictures of the Stop Hunger Now event, and

A full report on the Islam education event!

The Men’s Group visited a classic car collection last month, and they helped with a small mission project involving chain saws. Sounds fun, yes!

This month, men, let’s meet back at our favorite micro-brewery, Black Sheep Brewing, 13 Navajo Trail (Jim Steven’s garage). You cannot buy any Christmas presents there, but we might share some good ideas where to shop hassle-free.



### 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
- Director of Finances, Wes Stiefer
- Director of Music Ministries, Annie Savage
- Pianist, Daniel Herman
- Director of Childcare, Sara Sandstrom-Kobi
- Custodian, John Callahan
- Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt

### Thanks are in order!

Andre and Laura Nobrega are new to the church, but they jumped in, along with the Nelsons and Ennors, to provide a meal for Team Rubicon!

Team Rubicon is an organization of veterans who volunteer for disaster recovery around the world. They sent about 40 folks to help residents take down burned trees.

That works up a lot of appetite, and the Nobregas served them traditional Brazilian dishes, feijoada and pao de queijo.

Thanks also to Jason Suss and Bob Rhoads who warmed up their own chain saws to help a neighbor with some downed trees.

Thanks to Jackie Jones. She knows why, and you can pat her on the back without asking.

And big thanks to everyone who has responded to God’s grace in their life with a financial pledge or gift to this church! You heard our financial situation, and answered in a way that maintains the work we do in this community. Please know how appreciative we all are!

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

**Book Club** is taking a break for Advent. We’ll ramp back up in January.