

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

DECEMBER 2016



Worship in Advent & the Christmas Season

Advent began 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 p.m. Family-Friendly Worship Service**, and we are also bringing back the children's pageant!

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Thanks to Sue Churches for making our Advent candles



Then, as is becoming tradition, there will be a short time for the **Christmas Cookie Pot-Luck**. And finally, at **6:30** we will close our evening with the **Contemplative Candlelight Worship Service**, with some special music from the choir.

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 p.m.*, 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 a.m.** 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.

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again! Make sure to come smell them, as they are handmade from the wax of her own bees!! This year, it's all candle, with a perfectly functional wick, and no rainbow thread that, as we saw last year, nearly set the choir on fire!!!

Religious Literacy Series

The next Religious Literacy event will be 11 December, on Judaism. There are a number of culturally Hebrew people in the Nederland area, and rumor has it that some time in our past, religious Jews used NCPC for worship.

Come join our Jewish neighbors, as they help us understand these spiritual ancestors. What is the Torah? What do they believe about Jesus? What holidays are more important than Hanukkah? Why is Israel so important?

And of course, we'll have a great lunch, with matzoh ball soup, potato latkes, and gelt. Stick around after worship, 11:45-1:15, and of course, invite your friends!

Future Religious Literacy events:

- January 22 – Buddhism
- February 12 – Hinduism
- March 19 – Wicca
- April 9 – Taoism and other Eastern faiths
- May 7 – Christianity
- June 4 – Mormonism

Worship - Looking for a Few Good Folks To Lead!

After long service, several of our regular Liturgists have decided to step back a half-step and move from the "Regular" to "Substitute" lists. We are in need of a couple people who would be willing to serve as Liturgists on a regular basis for the First and the Fourth Sundays of each month.

Annual Congregational Meeting

According to our tradition, and the organizational rules for Presbyterian churches, we need to have a formal Annual Congregational Meeting at the beginning of each year.

So, please join us for worship this 29 January, and stick around afterwards to handle some of the important business of the church.

All members get to vote on the new church leaders (Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee) and the Pastor's terms of call.

If you have any input on the new bylaws that were passed in July, please bring that to Hansen by mid-December, so we can prepare for a vote on that as well.

Also at this meeting, the Session will share its 2017 budget, for your conversation and questions.

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Volunteers don't have to look at this as a commitment to never travel or meet other obligations (that's what we have Substitutes for!), but we do need a couple folks to step up and serve in the Liturgist capacity on 1st and 4th Sundays on those weeks when they are in town and plan to attend worship.

Anyone interested in serving in this capacity should contact Dean Rundle at 303-570-3190 or by email at bluguzman@gmail.com.





It is with sadness and faith in God's love, that we say goodbye to Russ Peterson.

Russ died 22 November, just a couple weeks after his 76th birthday.

He faced cancer for far, far longer than any doctors expected, staying strong and funny, graceful and seemingly interested in everything from plants to politics, right up to the end.

If you knew him at all, you'll understand why the last thing he would ever want is a somber funeral. It never was quite 'worship' for Russ, unless there was some dancing and provocative insight.

So, Jaydene and the family are planning a real celebration to honor his life. Keep them all in your prayers.

In Our Prayers

Judy Anderson; Willi & John Brocklehurst; Rich Deubel; Crystal Epperson; Linda Groves; Don Henningsen; Doris Hobaugh; Robert Manes; Shelley Millican; family of Russ Peterson; Rhonda Skeie; Mike Smith; Jim Stevens; Rick & Nancy Tasto; Vince Such; Lorena Yolo; For those serving in the military.

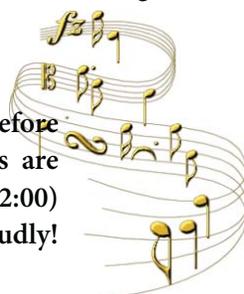
Coffee and Conversation – Just about every Thursday, 9 am, at *The Train Cars*, everyone is invited for coffee and conversation about life, faith, church and everything in between.

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

Men's Group is taking a break in December.

Guys always need the extra time in the holidays, to postpone their Christmas shopping even more...

Music in Christmas — The Choir is meeting every Sunday before worship (9 am) to practice its Advent music. Then, singers are invited to stick around after worship and fellowship (11:15-12:00) to work on Christmas Eve music. God gave you a voice to use loudly!



Mission

Mission Team – Dennis Whalen

The Nederland Food Pantry provided food for 290 people in October, and the Clothing Closet year to date has provided clothing to 550 people. This has been accomplished thanks to the commitments of our volunteers, who have donated in excess of 3660 hours since the beginning of 2016.

The Nederland Clothing Closet and Food Pantry are now working jointly and under a single Board of Directors. This allows for better service for our clients and the opportunity to operate under one non profit designation for fund raising.

The Nederland Food Pantry and Clothing Closet have finally been totally approved by Colorado Gives and is now an available option for submitting donations. See <https://www.coloradogives.org/NederlandFoodPantry/overview> for further information.

We're optimistic that this connection will help with the never ending fund raising efforts.

The Food Pantry has taken over leadership for the Peak to Peak Housing and Human Services Task Force. This is a collection of human service organizations from Allenspark to Gilpin County serving

folks in need with food, housing, health, transportation and more.

Working jointly with VIA, Boulder County, Emergency Family Assistance Association, and other agencies, this Task Force is seeking funding from Boulder County and from various grants to help with housing, transportation, health care, food and other needs for under served families and individuals across the Peak to Peak region.

For example a sub group of this Task Force has been the Mountain Human Services Collaborative that has arranged for funding and then hired a Mountain Resource person who can travel across the Peak to Peak region meeting with those who have unmet needs, and helping to get these folks signed up without requiring them to travel to Boulder.

The Heath and Human Services fair combined with a 9 Health 'express' Fair that included Thanksgiving baskets provided by the Emergency Family Assistance Associations was at the Nederland Community Center on Nov 12. Holidays Boxes, toys and clothing will be provided by the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet at the Community Center on December 10.

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!!

Youth Group

Thanks to Allison and Hayden for picking out our Christmas trees! And thanks to the Fords for donating it, and John and Barbara for helping set it up.

The next Youth Group event will be 8 January after worship.

December Birthdays

- 10 Michael O'Neill
- 11 Wes Stiefer II
- 17 Amy Hartman
- 22 Claudia O'Neill
- 22 Joyce Trostle
- 26 Katie Haynes
- 31 Jim Hubbard



December Anniversaries

- 24th Charlene & Gaylord Morrison
- 27th Martha Ann & Charles Hogrefe



CREDIT CARD CONVENIENCE!

Online Giving to NCPC

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, 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!



The Twelve Steps
to a
Compassionate Life
by Karen Armstrong

Step Twelve - Love Your Enemies

This is the final article regarding the steps to a compassionate life.

If you take on this work of *becoming* a compassionate life, then you may find that you step out of a familiar world of understanding and beliefs. You may find yourself in a domain of experience and consciousness which is difficult to express in our familiar means of communication — words.

Thus, rather than summarize or glean high points from chapter 12, it seems more appropriate to step back and let a poet's words filter into your life and consciousness.

As a salesperson in the early 70's, I travelled extensively throughout the lower forty eight states by air. These were the days before airport security and frequent flyer awards.

Persons of various religious persuasions proselytized in many airports — sometimes aggressively blocking one's path, sometimes loudly in song and dance. I found this uncomfortable.

Finally, I had business-size cards printed with a quote from James Allen (see green box). I would hand one to the person in my path and move forward before s/he could counter. Allen spoke much better than I.

Now, I invite you to allow Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī, a 13th-century Sufi mystic and Persian poet, speak in a manner about loving one's enemies and compassion far superior to my ability.

“Christian, Jew, Muslim, shaman, Zoroastrian, stone, ground, mountain, river, each has a secret way of being with the mystery, unique and not to be judged”

“And you? When will you begin that long journey into yourself?”

“I know you're tired, but come, this is the way.”

*“Yesterday I was clever,
so I wanted to change the world.
Today I am wise,
so I am changing myself.”*

*“We come spinning out of nothingness,
scattering stars like dust.”*

*“This being human is a guest house.
Every morning is a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor... Welcome and entertain them all. Treat each guest honorably. The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.”*

*“Be melting snow.
Wash yourself of yourself.”*

*“Wherever you are, and whatever you do,
be in love.”*

*“The wound is the place
where the Light enters you.”*

*“If you are irritated by every rub,
how will your mirror be polished?”*

*“When you do things from your soul, you
feel a river moving in you, a joy.”*

*“Sit, be still, and listen,
because you're drunk
and we're at
the edge of the roof.”*

*“In Silence there is eloquence.
Stop weaving and see
how the pattern improves.”*

*“You were born with wings,
why prefer to crawl through life?”*

*“You were born with potential.
You were born with goodness and trust.
You were born with ideals and dreams.
You were born with greatness.
You were born with wings.
You are not meant for crawling,
so don't.
You have wings.
Learn to use them and fly.”*

*“Out beyond ideas of
wrongdoing and right doing
there is a field.
I'll meet you there.”*

Next Month: ???

(Perhaps it's your turn — opportunity, duty... — to contribute something to your community via this newsletter.) Ed.

Purity is extremely simple, and needs no argument to support it; impurity is interminably complex, and is ever involved in defensive argument.

Truth lives itself. A blameless life is the only witness of Truth.

Men cannot see, and will not accept the witness until they find it within themselves; and having found it, a man becomes silent before his fellows.

Truth is so simple that it cannot be found in the region of argument and advertisement, and so silent that it is only manifested in actions.

— James Allen

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