

# The Bell Tower

## NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 2017 Volume 17, Issue 12

## Gatherings



### Book Club

*Book Club starts back up on 7 November, and each Tuesday night at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Our next read will be *The Politics of School/Community Relations*, by Frank Lutz. Sure, this is not the most normal book for a church group, but it will be a great way to honor our friend. If you want to join, plan to read the first 2 chapters for the first gathering.*

### Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters (the NCPC women's group) meets this month on Thur, 14 Dec, 5:00 pm at the Oyster Bar. Come get to know some other ladies, with or without a margarita.

### Men's Group

Men's Group is taking a break in December. Guys always need the extra time in the holidays, so use this to stop postponing your Christmas shopping! (That, of course, is Hansen preaching to himself.)

## Why I Love This Church

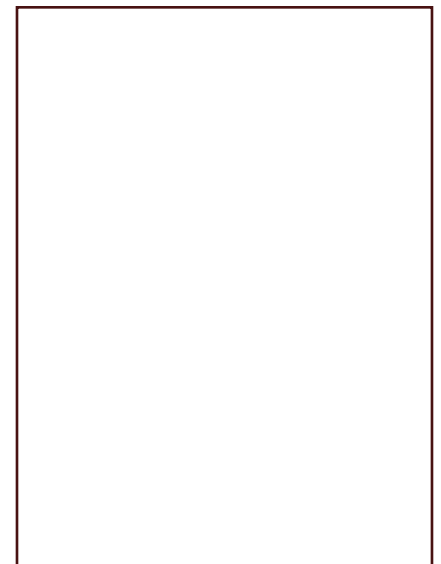
David Ford, Deacon

I'm a huge fan of Nederland Community Presbyterian Church for a lot of reasons. First is the building itself. On the exterior the shingle siding and the way it curves out at the base is a sign of craftsmanship you don't often see these days. I love the bell tower and bell and the rope going down into the church that Ray rings for us every Sunday. I remember several Christmas's ago it was a cold, still, quiet night with a fresh snow cover. The doors were opened and the bell rang for a long time, it was a magical Christmas Eve.

The church is over a hundred years old and all the worship there has created a holy space for us. How many times has the Lord's Prayer been prayed over the years? Each one of those prayers has left a sacred impression and we are fortunate to be able to continue in the tradition.

One of the core values of Ned Presbyterian is openness to all. The color of your skin, your socioeconomic status, or your sexual preference are not questioned as prerequisites to come through the doors. Freedom to worship God as you wish, without a set of rules or list of beliefs is a beautiful thing.

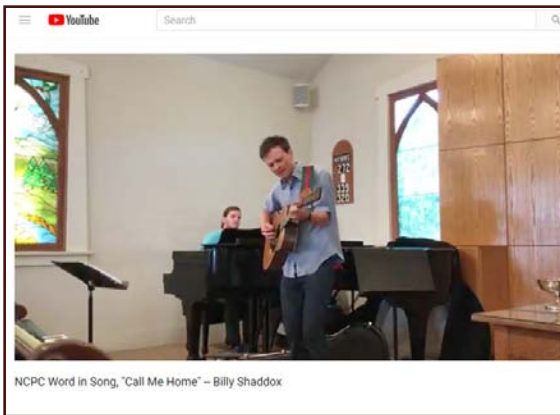
Then there is the pastor and parishioners. Pastor Hansen has studied the life and teachings of Jesus with a sharp intellect and does as good a job as anyone I have ever met of living those teachings. The congregation past and present are made up of a group of extraordinary people who care for each other and the community as a whole. One of my favorite activities at the church is the book club. It's a great opportunity to learn, get to know one another and be entertained.



*Liz and David Ford*

## NCPC Online

Have you visited our website lately ([www.nederlandcpc.org](http://www.nederlandcpc.org))? Or the church Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc](http://www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc))? Or Rev Hansen's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/hansenwendlandt](http://www.youtube.com/hansenwendlandt))? Thanks to our Elder for Cultural Engagement, Will Ford, we've recently been able to upload video recordings of the sermons. There is some special music on there, along with a couple children's sermons and even the silly games we played in worship in November. You would be amazed at how far those items reach—when we posted a picture of our new banner, it had over 4000 views on our page alone, not to mention the 25 people who shared it! When you interact with our content on Facebook (liking, commenting, and sharing), that has a way of spreading the good news, which makes you a modern media-vangelist!



*ICYMI, check out our guest musician from last month, Billy Shaddox! The YouTube address is pretty complicated, so go to Hansen's channel and look for "Come to the Water".*

## Christmas Wreaths

Amazingly, we sold out of Christmas wreaths right away! If you purchased one, stop by church on 10 Dec to pick it up. We'll have a table in the fellowship hall after worship. Remember, each wreath was \$25, the proceeds of which will provide 30 meals for hungry children abroad! Of course, if you just want to donate to the 2018 Rise Against Hunger packing session, you can do that too!



## Stewardship Season

Once again, it is stewardship time at NCPC. When you consider whether and how much to pledge this year, please pray and contemplate all the blessings in your life. Recognize your gifts from God. Think about how the church has affected your life, and the lives of your neighbors. Consider how different our community would be without the church. Then, be excited to fill out your pledge form, not out of compulsion, but in cheerful gratitude for the abundance that God has given to you.

Watch your mailbox for a pledge form, or pick one up in the back of the sanctuary. (The pledge box already has a good handful, but there is plenty of room for yours too!) Thank you for your continued support of all that we do here, to serve and love our God and neighborhood.



## Christmas Eve Pageant

The pageant returned last year, to great fanfare! So, we'll do it again, at the 5 pm Family-Friendly Christmas Eve service! We have plenty of costumes, and will be preparing and practicing during Sunday School over the next weeks. If you want to assist, or have your child take part, check with Aimee about how you can be involved.



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.

## Fellowship Time

Have you been looking for a way to serve at church, but can't make a long term commitment? Arranging the fellowship time after worship is for you! Sign up on the sheet outside the kitchen, or contact BG with any questions. (303-748-9172, [bbrooksrnm@aol.com](mailto:bbrooksrnm@aol.com)).

## 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!

## CHURCH ONLINE.....

Check out the church website ([www.nederlandcpc.org](http://www.nederlandcpc.org)) and our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc](http://www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc)) for recorded sermons, videos of special worship music, pictures and stories about the life of the church, articles about religion, and plenty more!

## Christmas Season

As with every year, we will celebrate Advent each Sunday, by lighting Sue's handmade candles (from the wax of her own bees) in symbolism for each of the traditional holy values of hope, peace, love and joy. As well...

**Dec 3** – Greening the Sanctuary – We need your help to decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary! Stick around after worship to get out the ribbons and decorations!

**Dec 10** – Wreaths and New Members – Welcome our group of new members in worship; then pick up your Christmas wreaths after fellowship time.

**Dec 17** – Star of Bethlehem – Each year we play this video that explains the astronomy behind the Star of Bethlehem. It is not just a fairy tale from the Bible! The 'star' has (according to this theory) a real scientific basis, that adds so much to the theology. Hang around after worship to be amazed (or cynical; we allow both).

**Dec 24**, 10 am – Last Sunday in Advent – The fourth and final Sunday of Advent happens to land on Christmas Eve this year. We'll have worship in the morning, like normal.

**Dec 24**, 5 pm – Family Friendly Christmas Eve service – We have a fun worship service, full of kids in the Christmas Pageant, and very welcoming of any families.

**Dec 24**, 6 pm – Cookie Pot Luck – Whether you're coming to the early or late service, bring your favorite holiday goodies to share!

**Dec 24**, 6:30 pm – Contemplative Candlelight Eve Worship – This is a calm and serene service, with Silent Night leading us out for Christmas.

**Dec 31** – Carol Sing – For our last worship of the year, come request your favorite Christmas Carols, many of which are in our Presbyterian Hymnal.





# The Spirit of Giving: CO Gives Day is TODAY!

*Susan Davis Churches - volunteer*

First of all - many thanks for your previous financial support of TEENS, Inc. - this enables us to continue the work we do in our community. Sometimes we've chosen to work behind the scenes - for instance, providing our gym at no cost for the Rise Against Hunger NCPC event or making sure you have this newsletter every month. For our non-profits this is an important day of fundraising for people who would like to donate to local causes.

***It's a big deal - donated funds are matched - and there are no processing fees - so giving goes further...***

We depend on your contributions to continue making an impact on youth lives here in Boulder County - and our unending belief that with support, guidance and encouragement - people can persevere and change the course of their lives for the better, despite potentially challenging and difficult circumstances.

THANKS for GIVING your tax deductable DONATION TODAY: [www.teensinc.org](http://www.teensinc.org)

**DONATE NOW**  
THROUGH  
[COLORADOGIVES.ORG](http://COLORADOGIVES.ORG)

## NCPC Children's Ministry

Check out the awesome projects that the kids are doing in Sunday School and during childcare! Wander over to the education room to see a variety of meaningful arts and crafts that Sara and volunteers lead with our youngest friends. Your child (pre-K through 5th grade), and any of their little friends are welcome to join in on Sunday mornings at 9 am. (That is, every Sunday morning, except when school is on break; so we will not be meeting on 31 Dec.)

Also, youngsters are welcome to join Sara in childcare on Sunday mornings after the Word in Story—although, don't forget, we have just started a new program called Family First Sunday, where we'll add a few age-appropriate elements to the service each first Sunday of the month, to make it more welcoming for families to worship together.



### 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 Cultural Engagement, Will Ford  
Elder for Fellowship, BG Brooks  
Elder for Finance, Marylou Harrison  
Elder for Property, Jim Reis  
Elder for Worship, Dean Rundle  
Deacon, David Ford  
Deacon, Jaydene Morrison  
Deacon, Nancy Waldron  
Custodian, John Callahan  
Director of Childcare, Sara Sandstrom-Kobi  
Director of Finances, Cindy Hauser  
Guitarist, Emily Haynes  
Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt  
Pianist, Daniel Herman  
Rocky Mtn. Mission Work Coordinator, Jim Reis

Rosalie Bargmann & Jerry Reiss  
Willi & John Brocklehurst  
Rich Deubel  
Crystal Epperson  
Sue Evans  
Greta Habak  
Barbara Lawlor  
Bill Martin  
Miles Pancoast  
Mike Smith  
Snavelly Family  
Pat Strawn  
Town of Nederland  
Police & Fire Departments  
all those who have and are  
now serving in the military...



Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts.