

The Bell Tower

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



May/June 2019 - Volume 19 - Issue 3

Gatherings



Book Club

Book Club is currently reading *What Is the Bible?*, by Rob Bell. We meet every Tuesday at 6 pm, to discuss the latest 30-35 pages. That will wrap up before the July 4 weekend, and then, starting 9 July, we'll be opening up the next book. Here are two that we'll read over the summer and early fall – in whatever order the Spirit leads us – *Proof of Heaven* (Eben Alexander) and *The Unquenchable Flame* (Michael Reeves). The first is a Harvard neurosurgeon investigating his own near-death experience. Appreciated by faithful, spiritual, and atheist folks, this quickly became one of the most popular religious books of the last decade. The second is a short history of the Reformation, looking at the central characters (Luther, Calvin, Puritans, Henry VIII, Erasmus) and theological ideas that led to so much upheaval in religious and world history. It doesn't skip the wayward nuns, beer-brewing priests, violent revolutionaries, and other real (ie, less academic) influences that have given rise to our churches today.

Special Events in Worship!

Easter was already a special service, with a full sanctuary, hearty singing, and people ready to celebrate new life. We added to that this year, by welcoming nine new folks into official membership!

Congrats to:
Liz Ford
Flip French
Hilliary Martin
Eric Meyers
Justin Quigley
Tara Schroeter
Kellen Schroeter
Kaitlin Silbaugh



Congratulations to Jim Reis, who was baptized during worship this Easter!

That designation – 'official' membership – doesn't get you any closer to God, or give you access to more prayers, or anything like that. Instead, it simply offers you an opportunity to declare your faith to the world, it allows you to vote in the formal meetings (we hold twice a year and for any special serious business), and it opens you to serving in a few select leadership positions.

What your 'official' membership does for the church is to inspire folks to see new people making an allegiance and standing for their faith, and it raises our congregation's voice when we gather with other churches to vote on denominational issues.

Every church participant is equally valued in our community. So, for everyone who chooses not to join formally (yet), you can still absolutely participate in every aspect of the church, serve in so many important volunteer roles, and have a voice at all our church meetings. But if you are interested in taking that next step, there will be another group of folks joining in early summer. All you have to do is come to a small meeting to discuss your faith history and this congregation. Talk to Hansen if you are interested.

Spring Clean

*The annual church cleanup day is here! Please join us at the church on **Saturday, June 1st from 9am-noon**. We will be planting the flowers in the garden, organizing the shed for Rocky Mountain Mission and general clean up of the church. See you then!*

Next Worship Series

Remember when you were 14 and you knew everything? Then you started to realize the world was more complicated, more interesting, worth paying attention to. Maybe curiosity brought you back to intentional spirituality, or whatever brought you back to church led to deeper questions.

People come to the church office all the time: What is this thing you keep talking about, like hope or justice? What does the Bible say about that issue or story? I've always heard so and so, but what do Christians think?

Our current worship series aims to answer some of those questions, or at least lift them up within a holy context. Through May and June, each week of worship will center on *What in the World Is...?*

We start with faith itself. (Belief? Trust? In what? God or God's message or God's love or what?) Then, angels are all over the Bible, as are demons, as are miracles, as weird as they all seem to many modern sensibilities. And what about the Bible itself? Or, the word 'God' is full of baggage, so what in the world is going on with that? And maybe the weirdest of the weird, we hear words like Revelation, Apocalypse, Armageddon; should we be concerned about those, or how might they point us back toward faith?

Try to string together three weeks in a row, and watch your Spirit come into focus!

Outdoor Worship

*Every year NCPC gathers once to worship in the outdoors. This year, that will happen on **9 June, 10 am**, at Chipeta Park. Bring a dish for a potluck afterwards. And you might want to bring a comfortable lawn chair, sunscreen or hat, and heck, drag along a frisbee or bubbles or other fun while you're at it!*

NICHE update

The Nederland Interagency Council for Homeless Encampments is a collaborative organization with shared responsibilities that foster public health and safety through care for the vulnerable, stewardship of natural resources, and respect for the needs of the mountain community. NICHE has been an outreach of the Ned Community Church for several years, as a means of organizing institutional response to issues with homelessness. (This, compared to Socks and Sandwiches, which is more direct outreach.) Here are some of our updates, as we enter a summer of full work.

- We have a new website, with current projects, past successes, and member organizations. Check us out at www.p2phhs.org/niche.
- Claudia is back at work as our Summer Homeless Advocate for Residential Encampments, thank to a renewed grant from Boulder County Community Services.
- We have already met over 40 folks who are on some spectrum of homelessness, and that's before the snow has stopped!
- The USFS Boulder Ranger district has set up 8 stewardship days, where you can help re-engineer the main camping grounds, to be safer for homeless campers and our community.

Men's Group

Men's Group meets the next couple months on 16 June & 21 July, 4 pm at Salto. This is a simple chance for men of the church to get to know each other better, with a beer, coffee, or whatever. Guys of all ages are welcome.

Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters (the NCPC women's group) meets now on the first Wednesday of each month, at James Peak Brewing. That's 6 June and 11 July (postponed a week), at 5 pm. Come get to know some other ladies, with or without a margarita.



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).

Highlands Camp

Elementary, Middle School, High School ages... Adventure, Music & Drama, Service camps... Nature, arts & crafts, friendships... Learn about God, learn about yourself, deepen your faith! Parents, check out www.highlandscamp.org for information and to register. Highlands has supported our young people for decades, and currently sends three staff members to help with our Vacation Bible School. Let's continue that relationship, and build up our kids!

Socks & Sandwiches UPDATE

Our summer ministry to homeless neighbors begins again on 6 June! Every Thursday we try to create a place of peace and welcome, with a little bit of charity and a lot of non-judgmental kindness. There will be a mental health intern present; professionals there to answer questions about camping, fires, and wildlife; Claudia will be there to help folks sign up for Boulder County assistance with housing, job training, addiction recovery, and more. Thanks to Highlands Camp for donating hundreds of hygiene products at their recent Middle School retreat! Thanks to our team leaders for arranging for meals! Now it's your turn to join in! We could use some volunteers to help cook and set up each week of the summer. Coffee is set out at 10:30, lunch at noon, and we clean up at 1 pm. Even if you can only come for an hour or so, come over! We promise you'll see the world through fresh eyes, as you break the boundaries and make relationships with folks who have so often been stigmatized and ignored. Talk to Hansen, Diana Nelson, or Kathy Meyer, if you're interested.

Deacons Report

from Deacon, David Ford

After the recent synagogue shooting in San Diego, in which one person died and three were wounded, the Deacons of our Church led a prayer vigil on the Sunday evening April 5. It was a beautiful time of scripture, hymns, stories, and prayers. We sang my all time favorite "Amazing Grace", a song that has so much history and emotion that it's always a comfort. The lights were down low and there were a lot of candles burning which added to the holy atmosphere of our Church. We read the story of the Good Samaritan—"Lord, who is my neighbor?" We prayed for the survivors, the person who was killed, the wounded, their families, the shooter, and all who are terrorized by such senseless and insane acts of violence. We prayed for an end to church and school shootings and all acts of violence. We closed with the Lord's prayer. (Sadly, we will be called again, to gather in grief, and to pledge our hope, for a world without gun violence. Watch for the next prayer vigil, in this time of insanity.)

God Calls Us to Be Stewards of Creation



Nederland Community Presbyterian Church is now part of the Wind Source program, which directs 100% of our electricity from renewable wind energy!

Why? In one of the first stories of the Bible, God calls us to take care of Creation. And the theme of environmental stewardship as an expression of devotion to God and love of neighbor, continues through the whole of our faith tradition.

How? Xcel makes it pretty easy. At home or with your business, online or over the phone, you can transfer blocks or energy or your whole bill, to support further use of wind energy.

How much? For the church, it will cost about \$4/month extra. At home, maybe \$1-2 per month, depending on how much electricity you use. Our extra cost has been covered by an anonymous donor, who hopes that this decision will inspire you to do more for the environment, as an expression of faith.

What else can we do? The easiest thing you can do is recycle better. While there are a lot of things that are *theoretically* recyclable (plastic lids, some coffee cups, tin foil), *practically* those things bungle up the Boulder County single stream system. It would be great, if that was easier, but if there are too much of those items, or the recyclables are too dirty, or the recycling bin is full of trash (like tissues, which are NOT recyclable), then *all of it* goes to the dump. Humankind simply has not created a system that can efficiently handle everything together. So, as an expression of faith, make yourself familiar with what belongs. Make it a prayer, a habit, a devotional!

NCPC Online - ICYMI

ICYMI, the most popular social media post over the last couple months was... Our Director of Childcare, Sara Sandstrom-Kobi, filling in the pulpit with her sermon, [Collapse: Persevere: Journey!](#) Everyone loved her story! While you're at it, don't miss the music that opened Palm Sunday, [Say Something](#), and Creation Care Sunday [Climate Ribbon](#) project.



Sara Sandstrom-Kobi

You can watch it all on our church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc) or Hansen's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/hansenwendlandt), or linked from our website (www.nederlandcpc.org), under Worship. When you interact with our online content, that has a way of spreading the good news with our community, which makes you a modern media-vangelist!

Pray-er List

In many churches the Deacons manage a list of people, who will pray for a list of other people who need prayers. At NCPC, David Ford will be sending out an email every couple of weeks, with the people who need prayers, along with a short spiritual reflection. If you would like to join the list of pray-ers, please reach out to Hansen or David (davidford107@gmail.com).

Also, a group of locals have started a Prayer Partners group on Thursday nights, 5:30, here at NCPC. There might be folks from all the churches and certainly folks who don't attend any of them. We are letting the group use our sanctuary to pray and sing, but it won't be a worship service. *All are invited to join.*

Vacation Bible School

Save the date!!! Summer Day Camp with the Highlands Camp Staff will be right here at NCPC this year!

July 22-26, 9:00-noon every day. All kids are invited to join in on the fun - outdoor play, crafts, bible study.

If you would like to volunteer to help prepare and serve snacks, let Aimee Tomlinson know.

Any questions or to register for camp, email

aimee.tomlinson@gmail.com

Bill (Marylou's brother-in-law)

Brown Family (Tinkerbell, Cowboy & baby Odin)

Bunny Boswell

Colleen Commons

Jane Davis

Crystal Epperson

Gibney Family (on the loss of their daughter, Dee)

Linda Groves (dealing with cancer well)

Justin Irwin's tribe

Miles Pancoast (recovering from another surgery)

Barbara Parker (BG's sister)

Mary Wingate and David Blanchard

the many older parents of folks in our church family

Town of Nederland Police & Fire Departments

all those who have and are now serving in the military

the dozens of people signed up for Rocky Mountain Mission...



Rocky Mountain Mission Report

We already have six churches signed up for the summer of Rocky Mountain Mission! If you have an idea for a work project, so we can help a neighbor in need, please reach out to Jim Reis at jreis11@gmail.com.

We will also need your help for Sunday evening pot-luck dinners at the church, to welcome our youth groups. If you can make a dish on any of these dates, please reach out to Hansen or BG at bbrooksrmn@aol.com: June 16, June 23, July 7, July 14, July 28.

As well, each week we offer the youth groups a Wednesday night campfire picnic and devotional at nearby homes. If you're able to host one of those on any of these dates, please reach out to Hansen: ~~June 19~~, June 26, ~~July 10~~, July 17, ~~July 31~~.

Finally, everyone can help by praying for the many young people traveling from Texas and Colorado, Oregon and North Carolina!

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, John Records

Deacon, David Ford

Deacon, Al Meyer

Deacon, Jaydene Morrison

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

RMM Community Coordinator, Bailey Johnson

SHARE Outreach Worker, Claudia Schaffler



Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts.