

# The Bell Tower

## NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



November 2017 Volume 17, Issue 11

## 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

(the NCPC women's group) meets this month on Thur 2 Nov, 6:30 pm at Stage Stop. Come get to know some other ladies, with or without a margarita. It's karaoke night too, so be ready to belt something out!

### Men's Group

Men's Group meets this month on 19 Nov 4 pm at Salto. This is a simple chance for men of the church to get to know each other better, with or without a beer. Guys of all ages are welcome.



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.

## Why I Love This Church

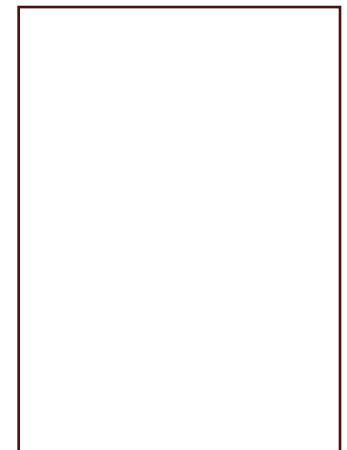
Nancy Waldron, Deacon

My concept of church has developed over the years. The church of my childhood was a sacred building, a place for reverence and ritual. There were rules to live by that did provide structure and stability, but God was this omnipotent being who watched and judged my every move. There was no questioning; that was just the way it was. Over the years I have had the opportunity to live in different states and different countries and this conception has thankfully evolved (with more than a few promptings from the Holy Spirit, I like to think...) And now I find myself at Nederland Community Presbyterian Church. And while it is a charming structure, with lots of history, this church isn't just about the building.

It is a community of people seeking a deeper connection with God, while being totally accepted and welcome on this journey. The journey may look different for all of us, but we are guided by the central figure of Jesus who unites us all with a message of hope and love. I have found a real sense of peace in this church, this community. NCPC feeds my soul, while challenging me to look outside of myself and outside of the building to reach into the larger community and offer that message of hope and love. This church, as community, is alive. The building offers us the space to come together and share our joys and fears and sorrows, and we know we will not be judged, but truly embraced.

I love Hansen's sermons, always thought provoking, and at times... provoking us to look at life in different ways, just maybe how Jesus would have us do. I love Daniel's music... what a gift to share those transforming minutes on Sunday mornings. I love being with the children during Sunday school and seeing our world through their eyes. I love all of the different personalities that make up this not so perfect family. And I love how this family always has room for new siblings and delights in siblings who come when they just feel the need. It is a welcoming place.

I am home.



Nancy Waldron

## New Worship Series

At the end of October we start a new worship series: Overlooked. There are so many people in the Bible, who were overlooked by society but not by God. There are endless characters in Scripture, who we tend to overlook but who have great lessons to teach us. There are so many times when we feel overlooked in life, and yet there is a love that always looks over us in grace. Join us through this month to give praise for what we can learn from Zacchaeus (whose stature was easy to overlook, but whose financial habits could not be ignored), a collection of readings from the Minor Prophets (the short books with weird names and weirder poetry that some of us quickly pass over), Mary Magdalene (whose real life has been totally obscured by nonsensical rumors, which happens to many of us too), Mary and Martha (one of whom overlooked the presence of God right in her living room, the other of whom overlooked those pesky practical matters), and the nameless Samaritan leper (who almost follows his nine friends who skipped over thanking Jesus).

## Membership Interest Group

About once or twice a year, the Nederland Community Church welcomes folks to a new member interest dinner. We share some food and laughs, tell stories about our faith background, learn about the foundations of this congregation and the Presbyterian denomination, and explain the simple process of becoming an 'official' member of the church. What 'official' membership does for you is that it offers an opportunity to declare your faith to the world, it allows you to vote in the formal meetings we have twice a year, and it opens you to serving in a few select leadership positions. What it does for the church is to inspire folks to see new people making a stand, and it raises our congregation's voice when we gather with other churches to vote on denominational issues.

Every participant is equally valued in our community. So, if you choose not to join formally (yet), you can still participate in every aspect of church, serve in so many important volunteer roles, have a voice at our own formal meetings, etc. But if you are interested in taking that next step, we'll be gathering on Sunday 5 November, 11:30am (after worship) for a couple hours. If you have special dietary needs or want childcare, let Hansen know. See you then!



## Rocky Mtn. Mission



*Over the last few years we've welcomed about a dozen church youth groups to spend a week in Nederland, sleeping and living at the church, working on service projects around the community, and learning about their role in God's drama of life and service.*

*We already have churches contacting us about coming next summer for Rocky Mountain Mission 2018! The flyers will go out to hundreds of other youth groups soon, so that we can fill up six weeks of service!*

*Session is excited to announce that Jim Reis will again serve as Work Coordinator. Anyone who knows Jim will not be surprised that he already has good mission projects lined up! He'll be recruiting folks to join in the hard work, and Hansen will be looking for anyone who can help welcome our new friends by sharing in a pot luck meal. If you know a neighbor in need, who could use some help from our summer teens, please contact Jim or Hansen. And pray for the many young people from around the country that don't even know yet how their lives will change.*





## Frank Lutz's Memorial Service

Thank you to everyone who helped with Frank Lutz' memorial service! A number of friends were in the kitchen, making sure that Frank's family and friends could mingle and share stories with a snack and drink. Some of you helped prepare the worship service. So, so many of you were there to support Susan and honor his life. God bless you all.

## 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, bbrooksrmn@aol.com).

## 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.

## 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!

## 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.

## Focus on Mission - Why do we give to the church?

*Marylou Harrison, NCPC Elder for Finance*

Mission is at the heart of who we are here at Nederland Community Presbyterian Church. Our folks work with mission projects in faraway places helping people we will never meet and, at the same time, we support mission projects right in our own backyards, helping Nederland locals and neighbors.

One of NCPC's longest local relationships is with the Nederland Food Pantry. Since 1986, NCPC has supported the Nederland Food Pantry (NFP). In fact, members of our congregation were instrumental in starting NFP, and for the first 25 years the food distribution took place in our fellowship hall. Currently, several generous NCPC members volunteer with NFP. Special kudos go out to NCPC's own Dennis Whalen who serves as board president and to our church treasurer, Cindy Hauser, who is also their board treasurer.

As Dennis and I spoke about all the food pantry does, he shared that in the past few weeks he has personally heard stories of people going hungry, stories of increasing rent, stories from children whose families have had to leave their homes and are now living in the woods, and stories of long-time Nederland residents who are moving away because of the high cost of living in the mountains. He shared that the NFP works every day to help alleviate these problems in the area. The Nederland Food Pantry helps 300-400 community members every month meet their basic needs for food and qualifying social services.

As financial help, NCPC contributes the annual Boulder County Community Food Share fee that gives Nederland Food Pantry access to all the food items available at Community Food Share's warehouse. In addition to its regular food distribution, NFP helps provide food for our summer Socks and Sandwiches program, and supplies food that Hansen can give out when there is an immediate need. Through our relationship with NFP, Hansen and our Deacons often hear about locals who have requested help to get them to the end of a rough month. And I would be remiss not to mention the bags of candy and nuts lovingly packed by Christian Women in Service to be added to NFP's holiday boxes.

It is because of your contributions to NCPC, large or small, regular or sporadic, that we can continue in our commitment to doing God's work here on earth. Thank you for making a difference and changing lives.

## Rise Against Hunger

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Rise Against Hunger event! We had a record turnout of volunteers, not only from church and the community, but also wearing Lions Club vests, Girl Scout uniforms, and Teens Inc shirts! We packed over 10,000 meals for hungry children, and had such a good time doing it! Folks were dancing and smiling, meeting new neighbors, serving kids in need. Thanks to our supporters who donated to the event, especially the Lions Club and Tebo Properties.

You can help us get a jump start on 2018! Watch for our wreath sale coming up this holiday season! Or simply make a donation to the church, with Rise Against Hunger in the memo line. At 35 cents a meal, it only takes a little change to make a lot of difference.



## 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 19 & 26 Nov, or 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

Miles Pancoast  
Mike Smith  
Pat Strawn  
family of Kent Waltermire  
Town of Nederland Police  
& Fire Departments  
all those serving now in the military



Willi & John Brocklehurst  
Rich Deubel  
Crystal Epperson  
Greta Habak  
Barbara Lawlor  
family of Frank Lutz  
Bill Martin

## Congrats Food Pantry!

*Dennis Whalen, NCPC Member & NFP Board President*

The Nederland Food Pantry's annual fundraiser was successful and provided a great deal of fun for all attending. I want to thank everyone who supported it on October 21st at the Caribou Room. Your support will help our community throughout the coming year as the Food Pantry helps 300-400 of our neighbors meet their basic needs for food and other qualifying social services every month, works to help with disaster preparedness, and is actively dedicated to working to meet Nederland BOT's 2020 Vision goal of accessible social services. Thank you! It will make a difference. Please remember the Food Pantry on Colorado Gives Day, Dec 5, 2017.



Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts.