

# Tower chimes

Monthly newsletter of First Congregational UCC | Grand Junction, CO | August 2022



## Paul's Epistle

Dear Friends,

Just a reminder for this month that Pam and I will be doing a family and friends tour on the road all the way to Virginia with stops in Santa Fe, Tulsa, St Louis, and Indianapolis on the way. The Through the New Testament Study group will meet Wednesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> to cover readings for August 1-15 and will meet on Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> to cover readings for the

16<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

Another reminder starting in September based on popular request the Through the Bible Study group will meet each Wednesday through December. This will give us time to reflect and explore questions with the deep symbolism of the Gospel of John, the action – adventure wild ride murder, shipwreck and run-for-your-life stories of Acts and the bizarre, symbolic end-of-the-world crazy book of Revelation. I have 2 unclaimed books if you would like to join the group for the last quarter of the class. I look forward to this because we have a fun group of people who raise interesting questions. Plus, it is offering a seminary level class that requires no term papers or tests. My least favorite part of teaching a seminary class was grading the papers. I still remember one paper where I almost used up all the red ink in a new pen... over 40 major historical errors in a church history term paper.

The Fall Book Study will be starting on Sundays 11:15 -12:00 beginning October 23<sup>rd</sup>. I give you advance notice so you can order a copy of Obery M. Hendricks book Christians Against Christianity, How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying our Nation and Our Faith. Hendricks is a professor of Bible and Ethics at the historical and progressive Union Theological Seminary in New York City. I suggest you order a copy using bookfinder.com or Amazon. If you do not have a computer let me know and I will order a copy for you. If you are on a fixed income and cannot afford a copy the church will cover the cost. As a church we would not want anyone excluded from any program because of a

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

## PAUL'S EPISTLE

lack of income. This book is particularly relevant after recent Supreme Court decisions gave victories to evangelicals of whom 81% voted for Trump. It also offers a response to Florida laws that seek to ban any teaching about slavery, Jim Crow, or the brutal treatment of Civil Rights marchers. I should also add states that want to pass laws to pretend that GLBTQ people do not exist and should not be mentioned. Yes, we live in a time when truth is often ignored by those living in the fantasy land of conspiracy theologies and prosperity gospels. Join with those who dare to seek the truth and speak the truth.

Peace, Shalom, Salaam

Paul

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby

## MODERATOR'S MOMENT CAROLYN HOLMGREN

Depending on who you ask, pride is listed as a deadly sin. So, I am taking my chances by writing about a team of which I am a member and am also very proud. The Fellowship and Hospitality team is an omnipresent, but sometimes invisible part of our church family. These are the people who provide coffee hour goodies each Sunday, (often with the help of donations from others....Thank you!!), as well as make the coffee, set the serving table, and clean up after everyone has enjoyed their visiting time. They plan and put on potlucks, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, special events for women at Christmas and in the spring, bar-b-ques for the whole family, recognize Moms and Dads, assist Ken when he cooks for special events at the church, and send birthday cards and holiday e-cards. In fact, any time there is food and/or fellowship involved, the F and H team is there. Thank you to Barbara, our chairman, Ken, our cook extraordinaire, and Andrea, Chris, Janet, Janis, and Kathy G.

## CHURCH COFFEE HOURS

Join us in person for Women's or Men's Coffee on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in Pilgrim Hall or the Mayflower room. Coffee, tea, water and treats included. Zoom Coffee will continue to be available on Friday at 10:00 am.

## AUGUST CATHOLIC OUTREACH COLLECTION

*Sharyl B. Peterson, Poet Laureate of the Desperate*

Information not available at press time. Watch Church Chat and other publications for more information.

# SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FOR AUGUST MARIE KOONTZ

Throughout the summer we have been celebrating God's creation.

In June, we looked around and saw the colors God used in His creation.

In July, we appreciated the gifts that God gave us when he created humankind, our five senses – taste, touch, sight, hearing, and smell.

In August, we will be working on what we could create to help make this a better world.

August 7: Using the colors around us, what would your world look like if you were a creator? We will be using playdough for our project.

August 14: How can we be helping hands? The class will work on providing help to one of our mission projects.

August 21: We see our neighbors and we see our friends. How can we show our love? We will work on a large poster that shows how people help each other.

August 28: Sharing the gift of taste and smell, we will be making something special in the kitchen to share with the congregation.

Please sign up or give Marie Koontz a call, 970-270-2579 if you can help with one class on Sunday morning. The signup sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.

## CHILDREN'S AUGUST SPECIAL EVENT

**GLADE PARK** **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.** **FRIDAY, AUGUST 5**  
**"Mulan"**  
 1998 - G

**Presents:**  
**"MOVIES UNDER THE STARS"**  
 Friday Nights at the GPVFD • 16400 DS Rd.

**FREE ADMISSION**

**HOURS**  
 Grill opens at 6 pm, closes when movie starts.  
 Concession Stand: 5:30 pm until movie intermission.  
 Movie Starts at Dusk.

**FANTASTIC FOOD**  
 Grill: Burgers, Veggie Burgers, Hot Dogs, Polish Sausage  
 Concessions: Pop, Water, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Candy, Popcorn, Nachos, Chips, Baked Potatoes, Home Baked Items.

**CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD**  
**OPERATION SIGN CARDS FOR THE TROOPS**

**ACTIVITIES**  
 Volleyball, Hay Rides, Corn Hole, Tether Ball, and pre-movie entertainment.

**Meet at the church at 5:30, bring camp chairs or a blanket.**

**Can You Help? | Per the church's Safe Church Policy, two volunteers are needed for this event. If you want to help, please let Marie Koontz know at 970-270-2579.**

# MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS

## THIRD QUARTER MISSION & OUTREACH COLLECTION

During the month of August, we will continue to collect items for Child and Migrant Services, located in Palisade. You may continue to donate sunscreen, mosquito repellent, Calamine lotion, and bandanas. Other suggested items to choose from are individual size Kleenex, individual size hand cleanser, cough/throat drops, and lip balm.

Thank you for donating these items for use by the people who work hard to harvest our fruit during this hot summer season!

### “SOLIDARITY, NOT CHARITY” REGULAR, ONGOING COLLECTIONS:

- ◇ Plastic grocery bags for making mats
- ◇ hotel and personal sized toiletries
- ◇ clean, empty plastic gallon milk or water jugs **with their lids**

Please bring jugs and toiletries and put them on the collection shelves near the office or in the appropriately marked bins. Thank you.

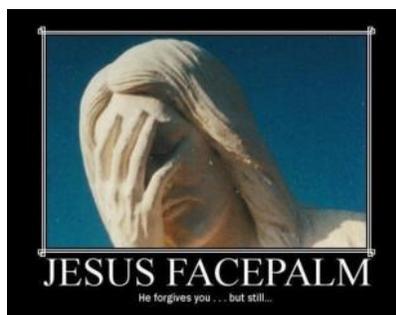
## JULY COLLECTIONS NUMBERS FOR CATHOLIC OUTREACH

75 dressings and 12 miscellaneous items

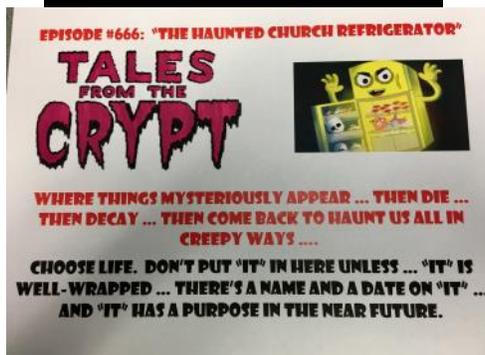
## MISCELLANEOUS FCC PHOTOS FROM MY PHONE

I finally removed over 700 photos from my cell phone this past week. I thought I would share a few. These are humor that I collected and used in past publications  
~Beth

When your kid knocks on the Pastor's door for Trick or Treat



Clearly, Jesus was here



# JUNE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES CAROLYN HOLMGREN, SCRIBE

June 12, 2022

The Church Council met in the chapel for a special meeting on June 12, 2022. Those present: Ken Puhler, Cindy Haas, Nancy Palubicki, Karen Caton, Brad Montgomery-Anderson, Carolyn Holmgren, Rev. Paul Ashby. Those voting absentee: Julie Krueger, Michael Petri

A quorum was established.

Following discussion the Church Council approved FCUCC to be the fiscal sponsor, and manager (Beth), for a grant being sought by Andi Tilman for her work in supporting LGBTQ youth and their families. The source of the grant would be Colorado Health Foundation.

Mesa County rising to the orange level on both covidactnow, and the CDC websites was discussed. Ken's talk with the Health Department revealed that new cases are being reported overwhelmingly by the unvaccinated. The few breakthrough cases of vaccinated people have resulted in mild or no symptoms. The Council agreed to let precautions be the responsibility of the individuals coming to church. Social functions require vaccinations. No other restrictions will be put in place at this time.

Carolyn Holmgren, Moderator

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Sandy Fox	8/18 Janet Spomer
8/2 Knute Knudson	8/22 Linda Mahoney
8/4 Dorothy Segrest	8/22 Betty Hall
8/10 Shirley Kodis	8/25 Ellen Bradley
8/17 Brian Mahoney	8/26 Jean Yale

If we are missing a birthday from our lists, or our list is incorrect, please call the church office at 970-242-0298 or email [office@uccgj.org](mailto:office@uccgj.org). Thanks!

## ODDBALL AND ACRYLIC YARN LEFTOVERS WANTED



Pam Grout wants your **acrylic** yarn leftovers. Whatever you have left over from a project is ideal, regardless of how little or how great an amount. She does not need or want full skeins. You may drop them off at the church office or look Pam up in the church directory.

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC CAMPING TRIP

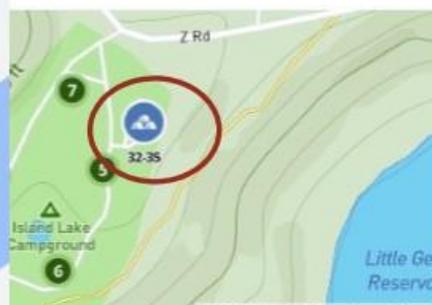
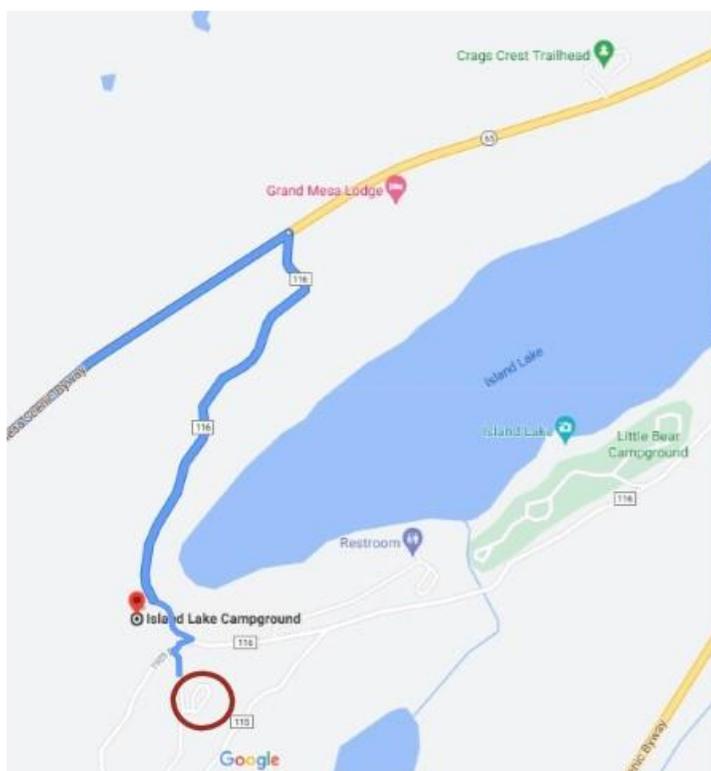
## Join Us!

Friday, August 12– Sunday, August 14  
Island Lake Campground, Grand Mesa– Group Site 32-35

Friday: Campfire– 8pm  
Saturday: Play in the lake, hike, relax!  
Potluck dinner (hotdogs provided)- 5:30pm  
Sunday: Breakfast– 9am, Worship service: 10am

Come Friday night, Saturday night,  
or just for Saturday or Sunday activities!

RSVP by calling the church office: (970) 242-0298 or sign-up at church at  
the Sign Up Hub in Pilgrim Hall.



Directions to Island Lake Campground

From Grand Junction:

Take I-70 to exit 49 for CO-65 toward  
CO-330E/Grand Mesa/Collbran

Approx 33 miles on CO-64 (from exit)

Turn right onto Forest Rd 116

# AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>July 31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
9:30 Song Leaders 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fifth Sunday Potluck		10:00 Women's Coffee/Mens' Coffee	1:00 Through the NT Study	1:00 Fellowship & Hospitality 12:15 Health & Wellness	10:00 Zoom Coffee	
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
9:30 Song Leaders 10:00 Worship w/ Communion 11:15 Worship & Celebration	5:00 Make Mondays Fun Again	10:00 Women's Coffee/Mens' Coffee	2:00 Mission & Outreach	12:15 Health & Wellness	10:00 Zoom Coffee	
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
9:30 Song Leaders 10:00 Worship 11:00 Happy Hour		10:00 Women's Coffee/Mens' Coffee		11:30 Berna B's 12:15 Health & Wellness	10:00 Zoom Coffee	
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
9:30 Song Leaders 10:00 Worship 11:00 Happy Hour 11:15 Council Meeting	5:00 Make Mondays Fun Again	10:00 Women's Coffee/Mens' Coffee		12:15 Health & Wellness	10:00 Zoom Coffee	
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Sep 1</b>	<b>Sep 2</b>	<b>Sep 3</b>
9:30 Song Leaders 10:00 Worship 11:00 Happy Hour		10:00 Women's Coffee/Mens' Coffee	1:00 Through the New Testament Study Begins Meeting Weekly	12:15 Health & Wellness	10:00 Zoom Coffee	

## LOOKING AHEAD

September 5 | Labor Day | Church Office Closed

October 19- 22 | Friends of the Library Book Sale

November 27 | Advent Begins

**Christmas Eve is on Saturday this year, Christmas Day on Sunday.**



Go Green! Get your Tower  
Chimes via email!



## CONTACT US!

### **Pastor:**

Rev. Paul Ashby  
revpaulashby@yahoo.com  
X104

### **Part Time Custodian:**

Anna Driggs

### **Church Office Hours During Corona Time:**

Monday through  
Thursday 9-3<sub>pm</sub>  
Reach us at :  
(970)-242-0298  
[www.uccgj.org](http://www.uccgj.org)

### **Office Administrator:**

Beth Rakestraw  
office@uccgj.org | X 105

### **Volunteer Financial Clerks:**

Nancy Palubicki,  
Martha Jones  
finance@uccgj.org

### **Choir/Handbell Director**

Karen Caton  
topcatkc@aol.com



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST