

September 2019

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Noticing Signs of Hope

*If you do not hope, you will not find
what lies beyond your hopes.*

— Clement of Alexandria

*My hearts leaps when I behold
a rainbow in the sky.*

— Victor Hugo

It is always morning somewhere.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

A wonderful thing about hope is that it's all over the place. You don't have to manufacture it; it's already present. Often you don't have to search for it—all you have to do is look in its direction. It's just as evident in the simple as the grand, as in the nearby as in the faraway.

An easy place to notice hope is in nature. The color, the beauty, and the grandeur can be inspiring. Nature's enormous diversity offers this reminder: "There are *many* possibilities." Look quietly and thoughtfully at individual creations—maple leaves and daffodils, seashells and butterfly wings—and you can see nature suggesting, "An Unseen Hand is at work."

Some signs of hope are dramatic—a glowing sunrise, a vivid rainbow, a bright piece of artwork, a hot air balloon making its way heavenward. Other signs of hope are quieter—the way bark heals on a tree, the way illness heals in a body, or the way hurt heals in a soul. Hope is on display when people dream together and then work to make those dreams come true. It's seen when people embrace one another, and forgive one another, and help one another.

Hope is just a glance away when you look into the face of a newborn or a child, when you view the face of anyone who loves, and when you gaze into the eyes of an older person who is passionate about life. You can see sure signs of hope in those who willingly risk, those who unselfishly give, those who courageously start over.

Today, just observe what is going on around you. Pay attention to any signs of hope you see. Wherever you are, they're there. Whatever is happening, you can catch a glimpse of them.

The question is, will you?

from the book *Finding Hope: Ways to See Life in a Brighter Light*
by Ronna Fay Jevne & James E. Miller



August offerings and attendance

8/04/2019	31	\$ 2855.19
8/11/2019	40	\$ 2634.52
8/18/2019	55	\$ 2121.25
8/25/2019	35	\$ 1402.00

Total \$ 9012.96

Average Attendance: 40

(Last year 46)

The church needs about \$10,000 a month to cover expenses.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bonnie and Curt Daly	1-Sep
C. Schmitt & D. Conner	2-Sep
Matt Brozovich	9-Sep
Lee Rains Thomas	13-Sep
Joanne Dyer	15-Sep
Marilyn Olson	15-Sep
Rod Gustafson	18-Sep
Christine Bland	29-Sep



- September 1: Labor Day Sunday; Special Music, Bonnie and Curt
- September 7: No yoga
- September 8: Adult Study Hour meets at 9:00 a.m., Worship at 10:00 a.m. David will be preaching. Claudia will be in training. Special Music: Ro and David
- September 14: Deacons and Trustees meet. **Yoga with Melinda at 8:00 a.m.**
- September 15: **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHOIR KICK-OFF SUNDAY!** Adult Study Hour meets at 9:00 a.m., Worship at 10:00 a.m. The school-age kids will participate in worship and the choir will be back!
- September 16: The **BUDGET COMMITTEE** will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Claudia and David, 7507 Simms Court, Arvada.

OTHER EVENTS THIS MONTH

- **EXPLORE AND DISCOVER DAYCARE INVITES YOU TO A BBQ AND SILENT AUCTION** at Discovery Park on **Sept. 7**, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Discovery park is located at 3701 Johnson Street, Wheat Ridge (near Kipling and 28th). This is E and D's annual fundraiser and it is a lot of fun!
- The City of Wheat Ridge **COMMUNITY MEETING** will be held at our church on **Sept. 11**. City staff and officer from the Police Department will meet with residents to discuss traffic safety, life quality, and crime reduction. The group meets in our Fellowship Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- The **ACTION CENTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY** will be held on **Sept. 14** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be games, live music, food trucks, an art auction, and more. The address is 8755 W 14th Ave., Lakewood 80215.
- **COMMUNITY RECYCLE DAY** will be held in our parking lot on Sept. 21.
- **The Wheat Ridge Mid-Century and Modern Architecture Tour** will be held on Sept. 28. Our church is on the tour map!

Our Annual BBQ is scheduled for October 13.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 10.

Staying informed and connected with our National church . . .

“Racial Justice” by Velda Love

Introductory Letter: Minister for Racial Justice

It is with great joy and God’s blessings that I serve as the Minister for Racial Justice with the Justice and Local Church Ministries staff within the United Church of Christ National Office.

“Open the gates of justice! I will enter and tell the Lord how thankful I am.” — Psalm 118:19

In America, the topic of race continues to be difficult to discuss in many settings. Very few Christian churches are leading bold and courageous conversations, engaging in direct social activism, and participating in civil disobedience as a way to bring attention to and disrupt racist systems and structures.

The Christian Church is the catalyst for addressing historical and contemporary issues regarding the intersections of race and racism that continue to harm communities of color. The United Church of Christ acknowledges and supports the equality of all humans. In 1993, The Nineteenth General Synod called upon UCC congregations in all its settings to be a true multiracial and multicultural church. Twenty-five years later the call continues to go forth.

The call to be a multiracial and multicultural church is an acknowledgment that racial justice means the inclusiveness of all humans and never excludes anyone based on skin color, culture, or ethnic origin. The United Church of Christ stands in solidarity with the creation narrative in Genesis 1:26-27, which clearly outlines what matters to God—all of humankind and a just world for all. God created humankind in God’s image and likeness, and women and men are image bearers, sharing equal status as human beings. God did not create race, racism, superior groups of humans, and hierarchical and hegemonic social structures. God does not sanction human suffering, including America’s involvement in:

- Inhumane social confinement due to mass incarceration and surveillance of communities of color.
- Global confiscation of another culture’s land and resources.
- Human trafficking and the enslavement and sexual violence against women and children.
- Deportation and the separation of families from immigrant communities.
- Police brutality and militarized tactics and abuses resulting in the murder of people of color.
- Using global armaments and acts of terrorism on innocent civilians domestically and abroad.
- Supporting White Christian supremacy over and against non-Christian faith communities.

In the Hebrew Scriptures the Psalmist tells us *“The earth and everything on it belong to the Lord,”* (Psalm 24:1), and the Gospel of John affirms what matters to God when the writer says, *“For God so loved the world . . .”* in John 3:16. Therefore the United Church of Christ believes that *“God is Still Speaking”* and those who believe so are called to *“Be the Church”* creating a *“Just World for All.”*

— Rev. Velda Love

The Action Center's mission is to provide an immediate and compassionate response to those in our community experiencing hardship and by offering the resources and services needed to stabilize lives and promote pathways to lasting change.



The **ACTION CENTER** (formerly "Jeffco Actions Center") is wrapping up its 50th Anniversary with a block party. They will have live music, an Art in Action art sale, and food trucks. The date is Saturday, September 14, at the Action Center Program Services building, 8745 W 14th Ave., Lakewood 80215, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our church has been a part of this mission since it first opened its doors back in 1968. We still collect groceries and other items and deliver them to the Center at the end of every month. Every year, over 545,000 meals are provided, over 20,000 individuals are helped, and over 100,000 volunteers hours are offered. It is an excellent organization rooted in love! Their statement of core values says that they, "lead with love, cultivate compassion, listen first, then listen more, embrace new perspectives, and strive for personal growth." Wow!

The Action Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. **\$.89 of every donated dollar serves those facing hardship or experiencing homelessness.**

"If you light a lamp for someone else it will also brighten your own path." — Buddha



Per Capita Dues Are Payable Now

"Hi, everyone. We are now collecting per capita dues. They are **\$13.50 per member.** \$12.00 goes to the Rocky Mountain Conference to support La Foret and Rocky Mountain Conference Ministries. \$1.50 goes to the Denver Metro Association, which supports administration, student scholarships, and other needs. If you can't remember whether or not you have paid, please check with me."

— Karen Parkinson, Financial Secretary.

On Friday, September 20, 2019, communities around the world will join in a [Global Climate Strike](#). Building on the remarkable pattern of student strikes, people of all ages will stop work, leave homes, break routines, and join together in calling for rapid action on climate justice. Eco-Justice Ministries invites and encourages people of faith to take part in the September strikes. Members of church congregations are encouraged to join the events on Friday. (A listing of [strike events across the US](#) is now on-line.)

Some recent Eco-Justice Notes have dealt with this topic:

- [A Little Child Shall Lead Them](#) (12/21/19) -- Youth leadership of climate strikes
 - [Bold Biblical Christianity](#) (7/26/19) -- The biblical Christian faith is intimately concerned with the "worldly" events of the day.
 - [Churches on Strike](#) (8/2/19) -- outlining the two proposals for congregations to strike
- One of our proposals is that churches "take a strike from the Lectionary readings for the day," and draw on other voices from science and faith communities. Churches that are taking part in the [Season of Creation](#) from September 1-October 6 will already be using an alternative set of readings with a focus this year on wisdom in creation. The theme for September 22 is "Cosmos Sunday" — worship planners will have to be intentional about bringing the climate crisis and the global strike into that Sunday's liturgy. Possible sources for contemporary readings (more links and text coming soon).
- Info from the Fall 2018 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The report is technical and cautiously phrased, so pithy and emotive quotes are hard to find. Carbon Brief has [a listing of key quotes](#) for a variety of topics.

• Here are some denominational and ecumenical statements on climate:

- [Religious Declaration of Unprecedented Human Emergency](#) from National Religious Coalition on Creation Care
- [Sacred and Inspirational Texts and a Climate Emergency](#) from GreenFaith
- [a listing from Interfaith Power and Light](#)
- a statement from [Episcopal bishops in Africa](#)
- United Church of Christ resolution (2017) on "[imperatives for a new moral era](#)" -- a very similar resolution was passed by the [Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)
- Statements from youth participants in the [International Congress of Youth Voices](#)
- [The "Our Children's Trust" lawsuit](#)
- [Greta Thunberg speaks to the UN Climate Change COP24 Conference](#)

"While Earth has survived radical climatic changes and regenerated following mass extinctions, it's not the destruction of Earth that we are facing, it's the destruction of our familiar, natural world and our uniquely rich human culture."
from Sir David Attenborough's new BBC documentary on climate change



MOUSE MORSELS

Happy September, everyone!

We mice hope you have enjoyed your summer. It now back to school and back to church ☺. Speaking of church, our kick-off for the choir and Sunday school kids is on September 15. We hope you will come to worship and celebrate.

We were happy to see Rachel Joha and meet her boyfriend Brett. They both work for the National Park Service at Arches National Park near Moab. This Park has been designated as a dark site, which means there is minimal light-pollution to interfere with star gazing. Rachel was hospitalized with an infection, but she is now back at work. Tom Kenney is leaving his former oncology practice for a new position with Kaiser-Permanente. He starts at the end of September. Congratulations, Tom! We are enjoying getting to know Charles Idler and his daughter Patricia Joy (PJ). Charles and PJ helped with our Women's Homelessness Initiative. Thank you! Thanks also to Grant Kenney and all of his friends from karate class who helped with WHI on August 31. Believe it or not, Wanda Bonner was Charles's kindergarten teacher right here in our church! Speaking of Wanda, she just got back from Branson, Missouri, and Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where she attended a performance of the Passion Play. On a side-note, Wanda has been to every Wheat Ridge Carnation Parade for the last 50 years. Wow! Charlotte Rubenking traveled to Medford, Oregon, for a family gathering. We hope it was special! Sue Schafer and Barb Nash have had a busy but enjoyable time with visits from various grandchildren. Grandkids are a delight, but they do keep you on your toes! Thank you to Jeri Mitchell for another batch of prayers shawls. She misses us but is loving her adventure in Alaska. We also thank Quintry Jeffares-Whitehead for taking care of our Sunday school kids this summer. She did a great job. We are glad to have Melissa Borneman and Rusty back in church! Melissa will be taking over the nursery care position. It's wonderful to see Becky Williams back in church, too. Your pastors are grandparents again! Florence Aspen Johnson-Rapp was born August 27 to Fauve Johnson and Marjorie Rapp. She weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 22 inches long. Congratulations to her moms and big brother! We had a visit recently with Karen Rail. She sends her love to all and welcomes calls, visits, or cards. We are sad to report that two very dear church members are in hospice care. Carol Meswarb is at Collier Hospice being cared for by staff and her family. Keith Daly is being supported by his family and home hospice care. Keith's family held a fabulous birthday party for him at the church. Keith was very appreciative. Please keep the Dalys and Meswarbs in your prayers.

Please share your news with us so we can keep everyone up to date!