

The Visitor

January 2018

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



THE UNITED CHURCH OF BROOMFIELD

an Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

"The Center of Our Lives"

Pastors: Michael Blackwood & Greg Garland

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Pastor Michael's Musings



New year's resolutions? Resolve to be gracious!

Welcome to 2018! It's a new year, so a new you! Time for resolutions. We're going to make big changes... changes like: stop smoking, exercise more, eat more vegetables, not eat so much fried food, read our Bibles daily so that we complete all of it in 2018, along with doing one hour of meditation, every day! Are you ready?

Well, I'm not. Not really. I hate all of the pressure of having to make BIG changes NOW! Why do I have to do it now? Just because it's a new year? If we're going to make changes and better ourselves, why is there pressure to do it on January 1st? It's psychological! We have bought into an idea that since we've ended one year and begun another, that we must re-start NOW! Fine. Re-start. Make resolutions. And what's likely to happen? Statistically, a majority of people who make New Year's resolutions have "failed" by February 14th. And once we "fail," we simply give up and "go back to the way it was before." It's like it was all for nothing.

You'd think we'd learn from failing a New Year's resolutions each year, but unfortunately, it seems like we never learn "the real lesson." What's that lesson? GRACE! If you're going to read that Bible every day and meditate (or do any other of those "resolutions,") the only way to do it is with a foundation of grace. Grace is what allows us to fail and re-start, again and again and again. You see, the new year has nothing to do with a new you. The new you happens continuously! In regard to whatever "resolution" you make - in fact regarding everything you that you do and everything that you are - success (however you choose to define that) is completely based on the gift of grace. You are perfect already in the eyes of God. The "resolution" we make, is our learning to be better. Or to want to be better. Kind of sounds like being a Christian. That effort to always be better than we were before. It's real and it worthy...and it has nothing to do with the new year.

Resolutions at the new year are great, but resolutions can be made all year long - and they actually are. Each time we over eat, break down and smoke a cigarette or fall off our Bible reading schedule, we simply need to be gracious with ourselves, as God is, and re-start. Forgive yourself and begin again as if it were a new year. When we remove the pressure and fallacy that we can only "restart" or "make resolutions" once a year, we can then embrace the grace exemplified by our loving God. Yes, it's a new year - so go ahead and make those resolutions. And keep re-making them, all year long - God and Jesus have got your back!



Look Inside....

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Winter Sunday Hours:

8:30AM Adult Choir Practice
9AM Sunday School
10AM Service of Celebration

Our Mission Statement

Our Church is dedicated to the love of God as demonstrated by Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit. We demonstrate our love of God through everyday living. Everyone is welcome to join us as we grow in our faith and in our relationship with God and each other through worship, teaching, caring and fellowship.

Birthdays



JANUARY

8	Emily Joo
9	Nancy McKee
10	Kara O'Kelly
19	Jeff Belval
20	Steve Brecheisen
21	Glen Hopson
24	Ed Bunetta Caliegh Foshee
26	Tom Ottem
28	Tom Belval
29	Rachel Vorwerck
31	Rhonda Davis

If we missed your b'day please contact the church office.

Your 2017 Church Leadership

Michael Blackwood - Lead Co-Pastor

Greg Garland - Co-Pastor

Corey Hill - Moderator

Jennie Belval - Vice Moderator

Marti Pratt - Clerk

Brian Conn - Financial Secretary

Gary McKee - Treasurer

**Carol Bliss, Peggy Diekhoff
- Members at Large**

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Committee Chairs

Larry Bliss/Nancy McKee - Trustees

Jonathan Wade - Worship

Kathy Wathen - Spiritual Care

**Bob Wathen/Mary Beth Jones - Christian
Education**

Tom Ottem - Mission

Desi Hill - Fellowship

JANUARY

*Daniel Clark &
Chad Steinbeck*

1/3/2009

*Tom & Heather
Ottem*

1/10/1998

*Pat & Laura
O'Kelly*

1/12/1980

anniversaries

Worship Service Volunteer Sign-Up

If you'd like to sign up to volunteer as Liturgist, offer a Kid's Time message or host after service snacks, we have a new way to do so. Just click here: [Worship Help](#) and simply follow the directions to sign up. It's easy and we appreciate all your volunteer efforts. And don't forget that you can put pen to paper and still sign up on the sheets hanging in the Narthex.

Sojourners Class

The Sojourners Adult Class will continue studying the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation from the Still Speaking Writers' group. We will start a lent study series in mid-February.



Special thanks to our parents for their help with transportation and support for our Christmas Pageant on December 18th. Vaughn wrote the program for our classes.

Special thank to both Vaughn and Carissa...a great success!

Our Sunday School Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th. Our classes will begin in the Fellowship Hall and then the younger students will break out to another classroom to finish our lesson and crafts.

Bob Wathen and Mary Beth Jones

KSK BASE & Preschool NEWS

Tammy White, KSK director

We wish you a Happy New Year. KSK will resume on January 9th 2018.

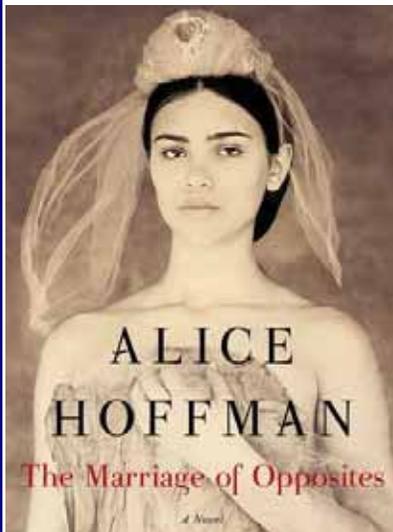
Circle of Concern

- ♥ Keri Jacobs: Seeking prayers for my step-father who has been in and out of the ER since yesterday with a severe cervical strain. He is in horrible pain, not able to sleep, eat/drink and pain medication does not seem to be doing the trick. He is currently back in the ER with an awful headache that has developed. Prayers that his medical needs are not anymore serious than originally thought and that the doctors will find a way to bring him some relief very soon.
- ♥ Beth Engle: Please pray for my family as my Uncle Jack passed away. Prayers of thanks that his suffering is over and prayers of support for his family in the loss.
- ♥ Our sweet 15-mo Willa Grey was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance (San Antonio). She had a seizure. They did numerous tests in the five hours she was there. She's home now. Doctor's diagnosed it as a febrile seizure - Please pray for her successful recovery. Thank You, Bette Erickson
- ♥ Helen Austin was in the hospital. Carolyn reports that she is getting better but will clearly be worn out. Prayers are requested for a strength, a joyful spirits and a speedy recovery. As more details are received, additional emails may/will be sent out.
- ♥ Gary and I ask for prayers for our son, Bryan, who was at St. Anthony's North with another bout of Diabetic ketoacidosis. Thanks Marti Pratt



Small Groups & Activities

Book Club Update:
Friday, January 26th
at 7PM at the home of
Pat James



We will be discussing
“The Marriage of Opposites”
by Alice Hoffman.

Men’s Fellowship will meet 7:30AM Sat. January 6th at Great Scott’s.



Gathering Circle



will meet

Sat. January 13th
at
8:30am

The Orchard Mimi’s Cafe

2017 reports from all officers and committees are due to the church office ucboffice@gmail.com by Wednesday, January 10th.

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 21st after the 10AM service.

Polity & Planning Meeting is Saturday, January 27th 8:30AM - it starts with a potluck b’fast - this is a very important meeting where you will learn of responsibilities and we set the calendar for 2018.

Pat’s Adult Class

The Adult Class that meets in the front part of the Steele Commons Room will resume classes on January 7th at 9:00AM. We will begin our study on the Passion of Jesus. All are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Pat James.

Attendance & Offering

Nov Offering:

\$9,874.00 collected / \$11,770.00 budget
(under by \$1,896.00)

Dec Offering: (thru 12/24)

\$15,231.26 collected / \$11,770.00 budget *(over by \$3,461.26)*

YTD Offering: (thru 12/24)

\$144,883.60 collected / \$141,240.00 budget *(over by \$3,643.60)*

Adults / Kids	
Dec. 3rd= 90/8	Dec. 10=81/7
Dec. 17= 81/15	Dec. 24th 10AM = 67/7

Remember to make your special contribution to the “Capital Improvement Fund”
\$3,550 donated to-date



PASTOR GREG'S GANDERING

A Great Way to Start the New Year

Every year the first celebration of the church is Epiphany. Epiphany always falls on January 6, following the 12 days of Christmas, and it is the celebration of epiphany or revelation of God's love to all the world as seen in the story of the Magi. The presence of the Magi from the east is a sign that God's love is meant for all the world. And the gifts the Magi bring are just small tokens compared to the gift that God gives us. That gift is God's grace as revealed in Jesus. That grace is a gift, it is undeserved, unearned and just given. It starts with life, that we receive with no action on our part. Life would be the greatest gift if it wasn't for the gift of God's love that makes life worth living. We, of course, hope that life and love will continue on in some form beyond this life, but let's be sure not to turn our noses up at the wonderful gift we have already received.



Happy Epiphany

Thank You

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN!

Yes, thank you all again for the very generous Christmas gift. It is very appreciated. I will be spending some of it on books and some of it on a new expression pedal, for my guitar. Hopefully, you all will get some returned value in these. May you all have a very blessed and joyful new year.

PASTOR GREG



Looking back ... We'd like to extend a very big thank you to everyone that participated in the gift card collection for A Precious Child. We collected over \$1,080 in gift cards as well as 3 big boxes of gifts (and a skateboard!) and delivered them to **A Precious Child** on December 11th. They provide over 10,000 Christmas gifts to deserving children in the northwest metro area. Our efforts really help them to make sure that the teenagers on their list receive gifts.

Looking forward January is the time of year when committees at UCB welcome new members. (Well every committee welcomes new members any time of the year, but January is the formal time.) If you are interested in joining us in the Mission Ministry - or if you want to learn more - please contact Tom Ottem or Pastor Michael. We absolutely welcome new members and new ideas.

Our next monthly collections for **FISH** (which are the first Sunday of every month) are on January 7 and February 4. We have agreed to sponsor the personal care items shelf at the new FISH facility. They are always most in need of: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap, conditioner, etc.

We do intend to help **Growing Home** again with their efforts to house homeless families at Holy Comforter for one week. The next week is February 4-10. We will be calling for volunteers as soon as we know which day Holy Comforter needs our help. Stay tuned!

January 2018

United Church of Broomfield

The Center of Our Lives

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 MORNING STAR GRP 11AM @ NEW STAR CAFÉ	3	4	5	6 MEN'S FELLOWSHIP 7:30AM GREAT SCOTTS; PRAYER GROUP 9AM
7 ITEMS FOR FISH DE-GREENING THE CHURCH	8	9	10 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	11	12	13 GATHERING CIRCLE 8:30AM
14 COMMITTEE FAIR AFTER SERVICE	15 MLK DAY	16	17 CHURCH COUNCIL 7PM	18	19	20
21 ANNUAL MEETING AFTER SERVICE	22	23	24	25	26 BOOK CLUB 7PM	27 POLITY & PLANNING MEETING 8:30AM
28 ONA CELEBRATION INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	29	30	31			

1st Sunday of each month: Communion during Service, Sunday Schedule: 8:30AM Adult Choir 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Service of Celebration

February 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 MEN'S FELLOWSHIP 7:30AM EGG & I PRAYER GROUP 9AM
4 ITEMS FOR FISH SOUPER BOWL	5	6 MORNING STAR GRP 11AM @ NEW STAR CAFÉ	7	8	9	10 GATHERING CIRCLE 8:30AM
GROWING HOME WEEK WITH HOLY COMFORTER						
11	12	13 SHROVE TUESDAY	14 VALENTINE'S DAY ASH WEDNESDAY	15	16	17
18	19 PRESIDENTS DAY	20	21 CHURCH COUNCIL 7PM	22	23 BOOK CLUB 7PM	24
25	26	27	28			

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Did you know... That we're on Facebook? We here at the United Church of Broomfield are cool and tech savvy! Jump on the bandwagon and stay up to date and informed! Click the link and "Like" us. Another great way to keep up with what's going on here and in the UCC.

