



**WE ARE THE PRESBYTERY  
OF WESTERN COLORADO**

# Pressing News

January February 2018

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## HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED CONFLICT?

**If not, we suggest you check your pulse. You may not be alive.**

Truth be told, if we are in relationship with others, we will know conflict. No two people think alike on everything. With conflict as a given, the important thing to recognize is HOW we deal with conflict.

A couple of years ago the Presbytery hosted an event in Montrose presented/facilitated by Bill Blank with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Northern Cluster thought it was such a wonderful, winsome, worthwhile time that we decided to bring Bill back to offer again. This time it will be hosted at First Presbyterian Church, Grand Junction on Saturday, **February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

If you missed it last time, hope you won't miss it this time. And if you attended, like me, you want to go again hoping it sinks in more deeply.

On the registration brochure (also included on Pages 3 and 4) you will see what is being offered for the day. A portion of the morning is receiving your own personal style profile and interpretation of the different styles. As the afternoon continues after lunch (provided), you will explore interpersonal, as well as congregational conflict...understanding conflict and how to manage it.

You will want to register as soon as possible so that you can receive the questionnaire that helps discover your own "Personal Style Profile" **prior to February 15<sup>th</sup>**. After you fill out the questionnaire upon registration, you will be able to assess your own style on the final page, and will need to turn it in to First Pres., GJ Administrators so they can get that information to our facilitator by mid-February, so the event can be more worthwhile for you personally.

Wait no longer. Fill out the brochure and turn in today. We look forward to a special time together.

Grateful for our partnership in ministry,

Mary Hammond Atkinson, Co-Northern Cluster Leader

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:18

## What others are saying about the Conflict Transformational Skills Workshop



Alisa and John Thompson

*...remarkable conference...way beyond our expectations...eye opening for our marital relationship, as well as interpersonal relationships...have highly recommended...definitely in our plans to attend the next conference in Junction @ First Pres...FUN*

Tom Hanson

"I'm always up for something that's going to help me grow in self-awareness as a leader, pastor, and human being. I'm especially grateful when it's led well and introduces me to a tool I'm not aware of. Brian Blank does just that. What I experienced in Montrose in September of 2016 left me immediately wishing more folks from our church had attended. Since every person and every church faces conflict, it sure would be nice if we were more self-aware of our tendencies in such situations, and strategies to lean into difficult situations with more honesty and courage. Having a bunch of folks go through it together also gives us a common language while facing the inevitable misunderstandings, hard conversations, and sticky wickets we find ourselves in pretty regularly. I hope many from our Presbytery participate, taking advantage of this cluster event."

Brian Caselles

I attended in 2016 and thought it was a great resource for the church, especially for the price. They offered a lot of great tools for conflict resolution for churches and beyond. I certainly recommend it!

Beth Gilleece

After taking Conflict resolution workshops in the Business world –this workshop which focuses on how we each deal with conflict was uplifting and educational!! I so enjoyed the entertaining way it was presented it didn't feel like just another workshop. This workshop is helpful for not only our church settings but also our personal lives. I am looking forward to attending in Grand Junction and sharing this information with my daughter as she will attend with me. Come Join us!



Mary Hammond Atkinson

My favorite part of the workshop was learning more about each of our own individual styles of conflict. Was entertaining and informative all at the same time, and brings about a lot of insight as to why/how we function the way we do.

## THIS WORKSHOP WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND....

- That conflict need not be bad, but is an opportunity for growth
- The Biblical basis for conflict transformation
- Your own style of responding to conflict
- The communication skills necessary to resolve conflict peacefully
- Strategies for preventing destructive conflict in the church family
- A model for working at congregational decision-making in a win/win manner
- Personal Style Profile Assessment explanation

Conflict is a normal part of life, even in the church. Understanding this can help church members realize that they should not be surprised or ashamed when they experience conflict in their faith communities. What is important is how the conflicts that inevitably arise are dealt with in the church. The Conflict Transformation Skills Workshop teaches some basic skills that will help participants manage conflicts within their congregation in a healthier manner.

The goal of the workshop is prevention. We want participants to gain the understanding and the skills needed to prevent destructive conflicts. We also want participants to see how church conflict can be transformed into an opportunity to learn something new about God's will for their church.

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) is a non-profit ministry whose mission is to "proclaim Christ's good news, the gospel of peace and justice—and to be active in the sacred ministry of reconciliation." This workshop is one of the ways that LMPC pursues its mission.

*"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."*

2 Corinthians 5:18

## CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 24, 2018**

**9 AM - 4:30 PM**

**COST: \$20**  
(includes lun ch)

*Workshop addresses the nature and the role of conflict in the local church as well as helps individuals understand and improve their own style of response to conflict.*

Host Church:  
First Presbyterian Church  
Grand Junction, CO  
3940 27 1/2 Road  
970-242-1923  
[www.firstpresgj.org](http://www.firstpresgj.org)



### WHO WILL BENEFIT

- Pastors and church staff, elders, deacons, all congregation members and leaders
- Anyone interested in improving their ability to handle conflict effectively, whether in the church, home, workplace, or the community

### WORKSHOP LEADER

Bill Blank is Associate Director of Lombard Menmonite Peace Center (LMPC) in Lombard, IL. He is an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church and has served as a pastor and interim pastor. He has participated in the Postgraduate Program in *Bowen Family Systems Theory and Its Applications* at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family in Washington D.C. He has experience as a mediator, trainer and church consultant as well as providing coaching for pastors and church leaders.

### REGISTRATION

The registration fee is \$20. Fee includes training manual, Personal Style Profile Assessment, lunch, and refreshment breaks.

Registration may be submitted by mailing the form or bringing it to First Presbyterian Church (3940 27 1/2 Rd., GJ, CO 81506).

**Remember to pick up and fill out the questionnaire before the workshop!**

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 24, 2018

8:30 -9:00 am	Registration
9:00 -10:15 am	Introduction: The Nature and Role of Conflict Conflict in the New Testament: Finding Renewal in Conflict
10:15-10:30 am	Break
10:30-12:00 pm	Discovering Your * <u>Personal Style Profile</u> for Communication in Groups Interpreting Your Personal Style Profile: Your Unique Strengths and Potential Excesses
<b>* VERY IMPORTANT YOU GET THIS AND FILL OUT AHEAD OF TIME</b>	
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 -2:30 pm	Interpersonal Peacemaking Skills: How to be Effective When People are Angry
2:30 -2:45 pm	Break
2:45 -4:30 pm	Congregational Conflict: Understanding Conflict in Groups and How to Manage It

## Registration Form Conflict Transformation Skills Workshop

**First Presbyterian Church, GJ, CO**  
**Saturday, February 24, 2018**  
**Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)**

To register, please fill out this form and return along with payment to:

First Presbyterian Church  
3940 27 1/2 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Make your check payable to:

First Presbyterian Church or FPC  
with "Conflict Workshop" on memo line

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed \$20  
\_\_\_\_\_ I picked up a questionnaire to complete  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me questionnaire

Questions? Contact FPC at 970-242-1923

## 18 QUESTIONS FOR 2018

Tim Shapiro, from the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, believes that vibrant congregations exhibit a commitment to increasing congregational capacity. As demands on congregations grow, clergy and laity struggle to “maintain agency over their problems rather than the problems having hold on them.”<sup>1</sup> Through the learning process, congregations can discover how to solve a challenge that once outran them. Based on his congregational theory of development, he explains that the first step is defining the challenge. The following exercise helps members identify their goals: what they already know, what they still need to learn, and how their plan fits into the church’s overall mission.

### Questions to Ignite Conversations

Ask members of the governing board or any leadership group in the congregation to review these eighteen questions.<sup>2</sup> Invite them to select three questions they believe are most crucial for the congregation to discuss. At the first meeting, take a tally of the questions that were chosen. This tally alone will indicate if leaders are focused on the same issues or are concerned about a quite diverse group of questions. Have a conversation about the three questions that received the most votes. Over the course of several meetings, help the group to identify their top questions or concerns. Next, assess the congregation’s level of capacity. Before taking any action steps, determine if the leaders need more information, training, education, or transformation.<sup>3</sup>

1. What is the distinctive theological message this church seeks to send? What words do we use to define our core values and identity? Do our pastor and lay leaders find agreement and unity around this message?

2. What will be the number one driving force for the allocation of scarce resources (such as time and energy of volunteers, staff time, money, building use) in the future planning of our church’s ministry? Local or world missions? Children’s ministry? Becoming a more diverse worshipping community? Maintaining

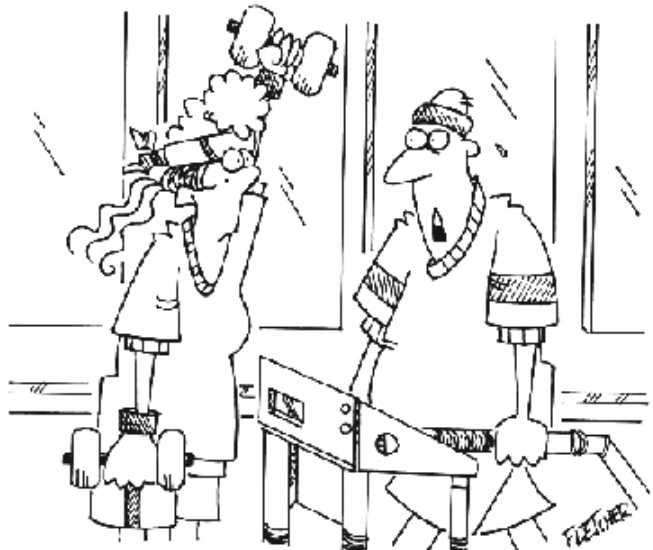
harmony? Satisfying the preferences of our current members?

3. What size is God calling this worshipping community to be? Does our current building and location limit or facilitate our size goals? Are there strategic decisions that we could make about buying or selling property or other assets that could benefit our long-range vision?

4. Are our programs, governance, and staffing consistent with our current size? Do we have a sense of how we compare to other churches of our size in terms of leveraging resources for ministry?

5. How strong is the desire for community among current members? How does this preference balance with those who feel more comfortable with anonymity? Do these contrasting preferences inhibit decision-making about church growth, outreach, or staffing priorities?

6. What approach is best for our congregation to design worship experiences that meet the spiritual needs of multiple generations? How does worship connect to the teaching ministries of the congregation?



"MY CHURCH IS BIG ON  
CONTINUED LEARNING FOR ADULTS...  
OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL JUST SPENT TWENTY-THREE WEEKS  
FINISHING AN 8 WEEK STUDY OF JONAH."



7. How committed is our congregation to continued learning for adults? How many adult classes or groups do we want? When and where will they meet? Who will lead them? Do we have a mechanism for the creation of new groups or classes?

8. How many “congregations” make up this church? In a typical church, about one in three participants regularly attend, give generously, and volunteer many hours in church programs and ministries. Another “congregation” consists of less committed members who attend worship but who rarely serve as leaders or participants in church programs. They tend to give only when they attend. The third “congregation” consists of members who demonstrate minimal involvement and rarely attend. What percentage of your church membership falls into each of the categories? Has this changed over the past five years? What factors could explain these patterns?

9. What proportion of the operating budget should we allocate to increase the church’s visibility and to invite new people to participate in our church’s ministries?

10. Does our congregation reflect the racial, ethnic, and economic diversity of our neighborhood or region? If not, what barriers keep newcomers from becoming active participants in our church?

11. Are we a regional church, neighborhood church, or something else? What is our primary calling in this geographic location?

12. What assumptions underlie our current church-staffing model? Does our mission depend on staffing at least one full-time ordained clergy person? How might a bi-vocational, part-time, or second career pastoral leader enhance our effectiveness?

13. What do we anticipate the church’s challenges and opportunities to be ten years from now? What ministries are likely to become more important or less important because of those changes?

14. What is the greatest impediment to designing and implementing a new five-year plan? Is one of the obstacles a high level of contentment with the status quo? Another possibility is a long list of attractive alternative courses of action and the reluctance to choose out of fear of making the wrong choice.

15. Does fear play a role our decision-making? For example, in some church locations, fear arises from incidents of vandalism and crime in the neighborhood. In other instances, fear stems from a sense that the church lacks measures to address future potential

problems. Does our congregation allow members to express their fears and are there processes to acknowledge practical realities in our future planning?

16. How does our congregation respond to disappointment? Can we describe some setbacks and what we learned from the experience? Did we find an alternative path forward?<sup>4</sup>

17. Will the passage of time expand our range of attractive choices? In general, the best time to strengthen and reinforce ministry is the present. What immediate actions would allow us to take advantage of multiple options?

18. Are our congregation’s best days ahead of us or behind us? What evidence points to our “best days” as a congregation? Are our criteria consistent with our core religious commitments?

### Could Something Be Better?

Our theological views and commitments color the ways we think about the past, present, and future of our congregation. And as American churches embrace broader narratives about our nation’s history, their own church story reflects those themes. For example, historians find two distinct American “jeremiads”—stories of decline, like the prophecies of Jeremiah.<sup>5</sup> The traditionalist jeremiad sees the past as virtuous and the present as full of problems. On the other hand, the progressive jeremiad sees the past as the source of our best ideals or principles, upon which we can build a better future. Both jeremiads acknowledge our present problems. But the traditionalist jeremiad asserts that the best approach to overcoming present challenges is to return to past ways of believing and behaving. Whereas the progressive jeremiad finds heroic examples of people facing predicaments and overcoming injustice. Both views reflect a tension between despair in the present and a hope for the future. Disappointment in the present is central to the American narrative and central to what drives churches to take on their next challenge.

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1. Tim Shapiro, *How Your Congregation Learns: The Learning Journey from Challenge to Achievement* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield: 2017), 4-8, xv.

2. Many of these questions are similar to ones asked by church consultants Lyle Schaller and Herb Miller in their ministry with congregations.

3. Shapiro, 36.

4. Ibid., 77.

5. Andrew R. Murphy, *Prodigal Nation: Moral Decline and Divine Punishment from New England to 9/11* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).

## BEST PRACTICES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS SERVING AS STAFF

Jean grew up in a large Methodist church in Ohio—confirmed there, active as a young adult, and married there. To accept a part-time job at the church, and later to go full time as the youth director, felt like a natural fit. “But to be on that side of the fence, attending staff meetings, was different,” she said. “I was seeing the magic behind the scenes that I didn’t know about. It was all about numbers. I still needed to be filled spiritually, to learn and to grow, and all of a sudden it was a business.”

During eight years on staff, she watched things get worse under a new senior pastor and neglected her own spiritual life while running a large, busy youth group. “I watched as other staff members walked out the door,” she said. “We were trapped in a toxic environment.” The birth of her third child gave her a convenient reason to leave.

Ultimately, Jean’s story has a happy ending. After a two-year break from her church employment, a change in senior leadership improved morale. When the new pastor offered her a different full-time job, she accepted. “I still struggle with the balance of worship for myself,” she said. “You’ve got to be intentional about your own spiritual growth.” After everything she’s been through, she would still encourage a friend to apply for a church job, “but you have to be strong emotionally to separate the business side from the spiritual, religious side. I don’t care who you are, they don’t blend well.”

### Understanding and Avoiding Potential Problems

Having done consulting in both church and corporate settings, Susan Beaumont<sup>1</sup> has found that corporate employees are generally happier than church workers. The difference, she thinks, is that corporations tend to have very clear policies and require accountability from employees. Beaumont lists the following potential problems to watch out for:

- Members want to join the staff to get inside information or have a closer connection to the pastor.
- Pastors often supervise on either extreme of the spectrum: little to no supervision, or micro-managing.
- There’s no training support for pastors regarding effective supervision techniques.
- Job descriptions are unclear, which sets up conflict between the expectations of the pastor as a supervisor and the member-employee who was not well-informed of her or his job duties.
- Regular employee evaluations are either non-existent or not helpful.

Each of these can be remedied by taking the time to be clear about expectations, having review parameters in place, and following through on corrective actions. George Bullard,<sup>2</sup> a veteran church consultant, takes this one step further, recommending that



WHEN FIRING CHURCH EMPLOYEES  
PASTOR TED OFTEN USED  
THE “PASS THE BUCK” TECHNIQUE.



churches and member-employees work out a covenant agreement (“not a contract”) for one to three years that spells out goals, roles, and responsibilities. That makes it clear to both sides that the job is not a permanent entitlement and leaves room to renew it if the arrangement is working well. And this covenant works both ways. The senior pastor does have a legitimate role, or even a responsibility, for the spiritual development of the staff. Whether they are members of that church, a different church, or no church, Bullard argues that pastors “should focus on the ministry of God and relationships of people to God, to one another, to the community.”

And if an employee obviously isn’t working out? While there will be difficult decisions to make, as Bullard argues, you can provide discipline or even let someone go in a way that is redemptive. For example, if a person has substance abuse or emotional problems, “a secular business would just fire them. A church has a responsibility to help them connect with systems that will redeem them.”

### **Pastors Not Called to Management**

Of the potential problems listed above, poor management skills from the pastor can be the biggest issue for member-employees who see the pastor both as a spiritual guide and as a boss. This issue is highlighted by Beaumont, who points out that “people don’t feel called into ministry to do supervision.” Furthermore, Bullard argues that the “majority of senior pastors don’t have an arena where they learned management skills.” This can cause conflict to develop in the church office, or the pastor may hand off management responsibilities to businesspeople who make up the church’s governing board. The former causes the souring of the spiritual relationship between the pastor and the member-employee, whereas the latter can lead to those businesspeople pressuring the pastor “to allow business principles to overwhelm what should be a caring, Christ-like relationship.”

Ultimately, Beaumont argues that pastors need a covenant relationship with their congregation and an employment relationship with their staff. Part of that employment relationship requires pastors to understand and employ effective supervisory techniques. If staff members are reporting dissatisfaction with how the pastor is providing management (either too much or too little), the personnel committee and

church governing board should work together to locate training options for the pastor so that her or his supervisory skills may improve.

### **Making the Decision**

Churches, with guidance from the pastor, need to decide whether or not they should hire members to staff positions. Some churches refuse to hire members altogether in order to avoid situations like what Jean experienced. Of course, as Beaumont points out, there are also benefits to hiring members, particularly for program or mission positions, because those members feel strongly connected to the mission.

No matter the position a person holds, if churches decide to allow members to work as staff, potential member-employees need a clear understanding that their relationship to the congregation will change from covenantal to employment. Additionally, for anyone on a church staff, whether member or not, Bullard reminds us that “the principal relationship is one of employment, not pastoral care.”

### **Balancing Member and Employee Roles**

A pastor or a church committee often want to hire someone from the congregation whom they already know, but clear guidelines are necessary to make the situation work well. Of course, many relationships between a church and its member-employees work smoothly.

Patti, who joined her Presbyterian church in Kentucky more than twenty-five years ago, accepted a position as the church’s administrative assistant in 2002 and is still on the job. The pastor “encouraged me to set boundaries for myself,” Patti said. Patti’s biggest temptation is to jump in and do a job herself rather than delegating, but that is a tension of her own making. She said her role as a worshiper on Sunday morning is not affected, and that even if she has to talk shop with congregants, she doesn’t mind. Patti’s pastor recalled, “I remember saying to our personnel chair that Patti was probably the only church member we should consider. So the short answer is: it can work if it’s the right person.”

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1. All quotes from Susan Beaumont are from an interview with David Lewellen.

2. All quotes from George Bullard are from an interview with David Lewellen.



# A Round of Prayer In the Presbytery of Western Colorado

For 2017-2018

2018 marks the Eighteenth year we've been doing this: it's a simple, biblical, faithful idea that has great power. Many of our congregations have been joining in prayer each week, praying for other congregations, ministries, and people in the Presbytery of Western Colorado. It has been a source of great blessing.

You are invited to join in this "Round of Prayer." It includes each of our congregations and fellowships, pastors (both retired and active), Candidates and Inquirers, and Presbytery and Synod staff. Pray for spouses, too: their names are in parentheses.

There are too many entries to do in one year, but that's okay! You are encouraged to send cards, make phone calls, or send e-mail greetings to those for whom you pray. If you need more information please call Presbytery Office at 970-240-8455 or email at [beth@wcpresbytery.org](mailto:beth@wcpresbytery.org).

Sunday, January 7 2018: Dorothy Loyer (Widow of deceased minister, Robert) Eckert

Sunday, January 14: Sandy Newman (Clark Lagow), Honorably Retired, Durango

Sunday January 21: Richard Engdahl (Brenda), Honorably Retired, Ridgway

Sunday January 28 Rick Underwood (Faye), Minister at Large, Kansas

Sunday February 4: Harry Strong (Anna) Honorably Retired, Arizona

Sunday February 11: First Presbyterian Church, Grand Junction, Pastor Tom Hansen (Shelly), Assistant Pastor Jason Emberger (Tina)

Sunday, February 18: Roger Knapp (Linda), Honorably Retired, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sunday, February 25: Cluster Leaders Lou Ray Wright (Don DeWitt), Thelma Starner, Keri Shelton (Kurtis), Jan Gam-mill, Mary Hammond Atkinson (Clark Atkinson)

Sunday, March 4: Presbyterian Church of Delta, Interim Keri Shelton (Kurtis)

Sunday, March 11: Edgell Pyles (Marti Pickett), Honorably Retired, Carbondale

Sunday, March 18: Roy Altman (Kathy) Honorably Retired, Silt

Sunday, March 25: Melinda Veatch (Glenn), Honorably Retired, Grand Junction

Sunday, April 1: **EASTER: Celebrate our Lord's Resurrection! Christ is Risen Indeed!**

Sunday, April 8: Julianne Fraley-Gilchrist (Jon), validated ministry, Chaplain, Kings College, Alberta, Canada

Sunday, April 15: Candidate: Garrett Mostowski

Sunday, April 22: Eckert Presbyterian Church, Interim Pastor Nancy Howarth (Steven)

Sunday April 29: William Mangrum (Valerie), Validated Ministry, Adjunct professor, Fort Lewis College, Durango

Sunday, May 6: Inquirers: Rebecca Branton, Ryan Fields (Brittany), Anthony Saturno

Sunday, May 13: First Presbyterian Church, Glenwood Springs, Pastor Vacant

Sunday, May 20: **PENTECOST: Rejoice in the Power of the Holy Spirit!**

Sunday, May 27: Betty Kendrick (Max), Widow of deceased minister, Eckert

Sunday, June 3: First Presbyterian Church of Durango, Pastor Beau Smith (Kristin)

Sunday, June 10: Beth Gilleece (Jim), Communications and Office Administrator, Presbytery of Western Colorado

Sunday, June 17: Christ Presbyterian Church, Telluride, Pastor Pat Bailey (Debbie), Associate Pastor Andy Konigsmark (Dodie)

Sunday, June 24: Charlene Patton (widow of deceased Minister, Jim), Washington

Sunday, July 1: Montezuma Valley Presbyterian Church, Cortez, Interim Pastor John Welton

A Round of Prayer - Page 2

Sunday, July 8: Chuck Robison (Karen), Honorably Retired, Austin, Texas  
Sunday, July 15: United Church of the San Juan's, Ridgway, Interim Charles Packard (Lynda)  
Sunday, July 22: Mary Mayhew (widow of deceased minister, Glenn), Montrose  
Sunday, July 29: Gary Hixson (Kathleen), missionary in Spain and other countries  
Sunday August 5: Lake City Community Presbyterian Church, Pastor BL Jordan (Ray)  
Sunday, August 12: Marilyn Ruth (widow of deceased minister, Al), Colorado Springs  
Sunday, August 19: Jim Cory (Cappy), Honorably Retired, Montrose  
Sunday, August 26: Florida Mesa Presbyterian Church, Pastor Dan Straw (Kathy)  
Sunday, September 2: Jeff Harmeling (Mary), Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Western Colorado  
Sunday, September 9: Jennifer McKenzie (Andy) Validated Ministry, Hope West. Grand Junction  
Sunday, September 16: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Grand Junction, Pastor Chuck Jerome (Sue)  
Sunday, September 23: George Miller, Honorably Retired, Montrose  
Sunday, September 30: Jim Petersen (Janet), Honorably Retired, Ridgway  
Sunday, October 7: First Presbyterian Church, Montrose, Interim Pastor Mike Motsko (Rhonda)  
Sunday, October 14: Synod of the Rocky Mountains Lynn A. Smit, Stated Clerk; Bobbi Hoffman Administrative Assistant  
Sunday, October 21: Fran Ferguson (widow of deceased minister, Bob), Knoxville, TN  
Sunday, October 28: Rico Community Presbyterian Church, Suzy Meyer, Supply CLP  
Sunday, November 7: Mary Hammond Atkinson (Clark) Minister at Large, Grand Junction  
Sunday, November 14: Bill Young (Pat), Honorably Retired, Grand Junction  
Sunday, November 21: Allison Community Presbyterian Church, Pastor Alan TeBrink (Brenda)  
Sunday, November 28: X Lazy F Ranch, Justin Smith Manager  
Sunday, December 2: Emrys Tyler (Sara) Validated Ministry, Sonlight Camp, Pagosa Springs  
Sunday, December 9: Pine River Calvary Presbyterian Church, Bayfield; Pastor Brian Caselles (Sherry)  
Sunday, December 16: Charis Caldwell (Mike Bucchun), Minister at Large, Glenwood Springs  
Sunday, December 23: Monument Presbyterian Church, Grand Junction, Pastor Matt Royston (Holly)  
December 25: CHRISTMAS! Celebrate the Lord's Birth!  
Sunday December 30: Sandy Cox (widow of deceased minister, Bill), Santa Barbara California  
Sunday, January 6, 2019: Larry Zirschky (Sharon), validated ministry, Military Chaplain  
Sunday, January 13: Jo DeVinny (David), Honorably Retired, Eckert  
Sunday, January 20: Cathy Hamrick (Don), Honorably Retired, Durango  
Sunday, January 27: William Postler (Jan), Honorably Retired, Durango  
Sunday, February 3: Bill Forbes (Gloria), Honorably Retired, Whitewater  
Sunday, February 10: Gary Hendrix (Dorothy) Presbytery Accountant

Now, start at the top, make appropriate adjustments, and keep praying!



# Peacemaking, Climate Justice and Faith in Central America



August, 2017, The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and World Mission sponsored A Travel Study Seminar to Guatemala and Costa Rica titled Peacemaking, Climate Justice and Faith in Central America

Chuck and Ann Haspels, Cortez, Colorado, participated in this seminar and have a well illustrated one hour long program summarizing their experiences.

"We listened to the stories of a retired Minister of Culture and University professor, a city mayor, city council members, local organizations, journalists, people working for justice and reforestation, the survivors of assassination attempts, resisters of extractive mining that had been beaten, bribes turned down, grassroots community organizers, church leaders, and about 100 (mostly women) very brave, dignified and humble peasants, farmers, indigenous groups, students. The two major themes we encountered were: 1. local people resisting the encroachment of Canadian and USA mining/ pineapple companies in their communities, and 2. the efforts of locals and the national governments to protect the environment.

A very high point of our trip, in Costa Rica, we visited several National Parks and nature reserves celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary!!!!"

Do You Enjoy Writing? Do You Hate Writing but Have Great Ideas to Share? Is Your Congregation Reaching out in Mission? How? Want to Get the Word out about amazing happenings at your Church? Beth is waiting to hear from you!!!

The Presbytery Blog is in need of contributions. We need to stay connected and one way to do this is through the Presbytery Blog on our website. Please consider contributing to the blog even if you are not a writer. Prayers, concerns, joys, celebrations all are shared here. It is a wonderful way to share what is going on in our daily lives, congregations, and Presbytery.

Also appreciated would be ideas to share on the Presbytery Facebook page. What would you all be interested in learning about? Beth is always looking for ideas and inspiration.

Presbytery Office Call 970-240-8455, Cell 970-497-6925, or email [beth@wcopresbytery.org](mailto:beth@wcopresbytery.org).

Presbytery of Western Colorado  
101 N. Uncompahgre Ave. #9  
Montrose, CO 81401-3763

970-240-8455  
fax 240-1318

Return Service Requested



ROMANS 7:25, NRSV