



**Loving God.
Serving others.
Changing lives.**

So far this year,
we've officially welcomed
FOUR new disciples
into our community of faith:

**Phil & Susan Paarlberg
Don & Sue Cullers**

welcome!



Phil & Susan



Don & Sue

God's Beloved--

I've heard some refer to this time as "The Great Pause"--a time when the pace of life ground to a halt mid-March in the midst of nation-wide, state-imposed "stay at home" orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we no doubt had to radically alter the way we lived our lives in those unfolding moments, there's one thing that has remained the same: **Heart of the Rockies Christian Church has continued to BE CHURCH.** Our worship has continued, our outreach has continued, our study has continued, our fellowship has continued, our service to others has continued, our care and prayers for one another have continued, our staff has continued their work, our lay leaders have continued their tasks, our gardeners have continued to prep and plant and harvest, and **God has continued to show up for us** in ways we couldn't have imagined even 6 months ago.

We now worship with friends and family from across the country. Dear ones whose health prevented them from attending worship weekly pre-COVID are able to worship with us again in their homes. We've learned more about where some deep needs exist in our community, and we've sought to put that learning into action. We've made needed updates and improvements to our building so it's ready for our return to it. We've helped keep our community fed. We've supported small farmers in countries hard-hit by the virus. We've witnessed the resilience and creativity of our kids and youth. We've gathered around virtual campfires and at virtual tables and in virtual breweries. We've continued to exercise our holy imaginations, moving forward on BIG things, like the dream God has for our land and our Open & Affirming discernment process. We've courageously said yes to new opportunities--CIRCLES and digging deeper into the work of anti-racism.

We've been able to be BE CHURCH because YOU have shown up for us, too. **You've continued to give faithfully, consistently, and generously. Thank you.** As of June 30, our General Fund is operating with a lifetime and YTD surplus of just over \$25,000. We have received 98% of the amount that you shared with us as your estimates of giving for 2020 YTD. Our Building Reserve Fund has received 84% of what you pledged YTD. **I am humbled by and grateful for the ways you've continued to believe in and support the mission and ministry God is doing through us.**

In addition to your abundant generosity to our General Fund and Building Reserve Fund, you've also given boldly directly to our community, to our wider church, and to one another:

- 200+ pairs of underwear given to Homeward Alliance for distribution to our unhoused neighbors
- \$1,660 to Disciples Mission Fund Easter Offering to support the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- \$600 to Disciples Mission Fund Pentecost Offering to support Disciples new church development
- \$415 to the Food Bank for Larimer County through Equal Exchange delivery donations
- \$1,100+ to Poudre School Pay to ensure students at Laurel Elementary had access to lunch even when school wasn't meeting in-person
- \$1,800+ to *HeartFamilies* to support folks in our congregation needing a financial boost

As we continue to weather the economic uncertainty that has accompanied this public health crisis, we do not take for granted our current position, and we look to the future with hope. A church that knows financial faithfulness and freedom is a church that has the capacity to dream bold, God-sized dreams and to live generously in the ways we serve the world beyond our walls. I can't wait to see how God will use us in the months to come, come what may.

In gratitude and grace,

Melissa

Melissa St. Clair, Pastor

thank you!