

February 2019  
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This issue has 4 pages

## A LETTER FROM OUR GENERAL MINISTER

January 23, 2019



Dear Partners in Christ,

The vision of a body united—in purpose, in mission, in vision—is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like “terrorist” that attach too easily to Muslims, overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The Gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ’s call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God’s service,

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President  
The United Church of Christ  
700 Prospect Avenue East, Cleveland, OH 44115  
ucc.org



*“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, God, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” — John 17: 20-21*

## January offerings and attendance

1/6/19	44	\$ 2,203
1/13/19	51	\$ 1,139
1/20/19	48	\$ 39,163*
1/27/19	58	\$ 4,786

\*Includes insurance reimbursement of \$36,840.61

Total \$47,290. Average Attendance: 50

**By now all members and friends** should have received a copy of the **proposed budget** for 2019, along with a **letter** from Head Trustee Fred Rollenhagen, and a **pledge card**. We will vote on the budget at our annual meeting after worship on February 10. By Feb. 10 please put your pledge card in the church offering plate or mail it to the church. Our church is counting on you!



McKenna Sherry	1-Feb
Katie Packard	6-Feb
Mary Todd	17-Feb
Jeri Mitchell	20-Feb
Lane Stocking	27-Feb
Tom Kenney	27-Feb
Krista Williams	28-Feb

## WRCC UCC February Calendar

- February 1 – Electronic sign demonstration at the church, noon.
- February 2 – *No yoga today*
- February 3 – Sunday School at 9, Worship at 10, David Preaching and Claudia in training.
- February 6 – Coffee and Contemplation (meditation at 9 a.m. followed with coffee and treats)
- February 7-9 “Congregations Alive” Conference at 1<sup>st</sup> Plymouth UCC, Colo. Blvd. at Hampden
- February 9 - Deacons and Trustees meet. *Yoga with Melinda* at 8:00 a.m.
- February 10 – Communion during worship, **Annual Meeting** following worship.
- February 13 – Coffee and Contemplation
- February 14 – Valentine’s Day ♥ ♥
- February 16 – Yoga with Melinda, 8:30
- February 17 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Epiphany
- February 18 – Presidents’ Day
- February 20 – Coffee and Contemplation
- February 23 – **Women’s Homelessness Initiative**, 4 p.m., Sixth Avenue UCC. Please RSVP to Claudia.
- February 24 - Berkeley Appreciation Sunday. We will have potluck after church!
- March 3 – Transfiguration Sunday (Mark 9:2-8)
- March 6 – Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. We will have a light soup supper followed with an Ash Wednesday service and application of ashes.

Notice: The calendar does indicate that March 1 is celebrated as “St. David’s Day.” However our co-pastor wishes to assure you that this feast day is about somebody else and not him, since he is definitely not a saint. Saint David and Co-pastor David do have in common that both oppose Pelagianism and both think that leeks are really excellent. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_David](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_David)

# New Housing Development

**Our church is getting some new neighbors!** There is a multi-family housing development planned for the vacant lot east of our church. Jim Thomson has attended two meetings and has summarized the plans. **Thank you, Jim!** Although we do not know all the ramifications for our operations and grounds, the construction will undoubtedly have an impact.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

by Jim Thomson

The project under review was “The Village at Edgewater” (preliminary working title). The project consists of the conversion of 4.79 acres of vacant land into 56 residential units including 18 duplex dwellings and 38 multi-family townhouses. The project site extends approximately 740 ft. east along 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. from the northeast property corner of WRCC property and approximately 300 ft. south from the northeast property corner of WRCC property along the east boundary of the WRCC property (which appears to coincide with the boundary between the City of Wheat Ridge and the of City Edgewater). Included in the development is the completion of pedestrian improvements along the west 29<sup>th</sup> Ave right-of-way for the length of the property and the construction of the street, curb, gutter and sidewalk (east side only) in the Kendall St right-of-way along the property’s west boundary line.

There will also be a private road within the project running west to east from Kendall St. connecting to 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. at the east end of the project. Additionally a small public park will be constructed. Facing Kendall St. (and our church) will be a 3-story 6-unit and a 3-unit row house. The faces of these two units will be approximately 45 feet back from the WRCC property line and 80 to 90 feet from the church building itself.

In addition to the developers presenting an overview of the project, seven members of the public provided comments. It was stated that connecting Kendall St. through the project to Terra Village was a request from the City of Wheat Ridge. There was much discussion of the traffic and parking as it related to both 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. and the extension of Kendall St. through the project to Terra Village. For the 56 residential units there will be 130 parking places provided, 105 in garages with the rest on-street parking, 8 of which will be on Kendall St. No one had objections to the project as a whole.

Depending upon approvals by the Planning and Zoning Commission, the City Council of the project and subsequent building permits the developers would like to start site work in June 2019 with a two-year buildout of the entire project. The developers stated that they would like to consider this project “starter homes” and project that the costs per unit will be in the low-to-mid \$400,000 range.

The Commission requested a draft resolution to conditions for approval put forth by Staff for both applications. These are to be drafted and presented at a special Planning Zoning meeting on Jan. 9, 2019. The meeting was thus adjourned without approval of either of the applications.

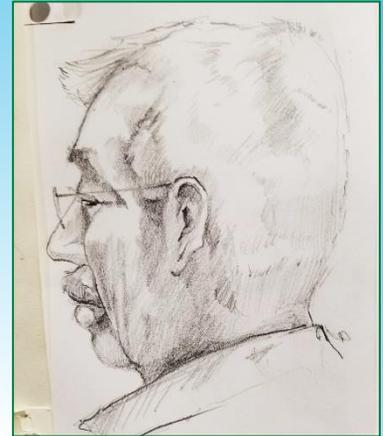


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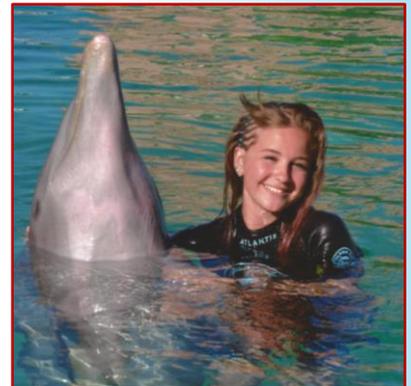
**Happy February!** Today we want to start by thanking people. Our church is so lucky to have such committed and active members and friends! We thank **Curt Daly** and **Cynthia Parkinson** for working on our banners. They look great. Thank you also to **Jim Thomson** for keeping us informed on the planned condo development nextdoor to the church. There are 56 news units to be built! Yikes! Maybe some of the new people will visit us. Be sure to read Jim's report elsewhere in this issue. We also thank **Charlotte Rubenking** for moving us forward on getting us new blinds for our parlor and fellowship hall. Sadly, Charlotte is heading to Phoenix to be with her sister, who is experiencing liver failure. The **Jeffares-Whitehead** family is back from the Bahamas! Floy reports that it was wonderful and that **Quintry** actually did swim with the dolphins. **Melinda Townsend** and **Susan Hebert** traveled to New Orleans for Susan's aunt's 90th birthday. Her aunt danced all night! How wonderful! It was great to have the Conner-Smith family in church: **Cathy Conner, Troy Smith, and their daughter Sia.** **Chuck Parson** has another Art exhibit you don't want to miss. If you want a tour and lecture, Chuck has agreed to present one for our church on Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Lakewood Cultural Center. The exhibit is open until March. <http://www.lakewood.org/exhibitions/> We are sorry to report that Chuck's mother, **Rabel Parson**, died in Florida on Jan. 29 after a lengthy stay in hospice. We send sympathy and love to Chuck and his family. **Pam Cokins** is having surgery to remove lip cancer on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 10:00 a.m. at Samaritan Hospital. Prayers for Pam! We were delighted to have **Amanda Earle's** parents in worship. They live in Pennsylvania and were visiting Colorado for a ski vacation! We are sad to say goodbye to **Carrie Martin and Jean Bareis.** They have transferred their membership back to Arvada United Church of Christ. We will miss them.

*Please let us know of any news you have for us.*

The Nachtweih-Kluender Family. Violet Rae was baptized on Dec. 23.



On display at Chuck's exhibit.  
Can you guess who this is?



This is Quintry swimming with the fishes — I mean, dolphins!

**Violet**

The Church Mouse is published monthly by the Wheat Ridge Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. The deadline for copy is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Articles may be handwritten or typed, but we prefer plain text sent via email to [wheatridgeucc@gmail.com](mailto:wheatridgeucc@gmail.com). Articles must indicate the name of the writer and/or sender. Unsigned articles are written by the editor. The church website is: [www.wheatridgeucc.org](http://www.wheatridgeucc.org). News and photos for the website should be sent to the same email address listed above. Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. Office hours are 8:30 to 1:00pm daily. Monday is the minister's day off. The pastor may be reached at 303-238-6271 (office), 303-246- 0589 (Claudia's cell), or [wheatridgeucc@gmail.com](mailto:wheatridgeucc@gmail.com).