

CREEDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
Annual Congregational Meeting 2024 In Review
Sunday, February 16, 2025

Contents	1
Agenda	2
Minutes of 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting	See PDF File Attached
Minister Report	3
Clerk's Report	4
Trustees Report, including House Committee	5
Deacons Report	6
Worship & Music Report	7
Christian Life Education	8
Mission & Outreach/Helping Hands	9
Ladies Aid Society	11
Banking Signatures Draft Motion	12
2024 Ministry Teams and Nominations for Officers, Deacons, and Trustees	13-14
2025 Proposed Budget	15
2024 Income Statement and Balance Sheet	16-17

Annual Congregational Meeting
February 16, 2025
Agenda

1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes from the February 4, 2024, Annual Congregational Meeting
3. Reports
 - A. Moderator
 - B. Minister
 - C. Clerk
 - D. Trustees
 - E. Deacons
 - F. Worship & Music
 - G. Christian Life Education
 - H. Mission & Outreach/Helping Hands
 - I. Ladies Aid Society
4. New Business:
 - A. Present Proposed 2025 Budget for Congregational Approval
 - B. Present Resolution for Banking Signatures for Congregational Approval
 - C. Election of Officers and incoming Deacons, Trustees, and Ministry Leaders
 - D. Commissioning & Blessing Officers/Deacons/Trustees/Ministry Leaders
5. Closing Prayer

Minister's Report from the Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Linn

2024 was a challenging but satisfying year for me.

I continued to serve as the Moderator for the Rocky Mountain Conference of the UCC (comprised of the 70-some UCC ministries across Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah). The demands of this “repair” work eased somewhat as we developed and implemented a transition plan that should leave the conference in a stronger position, in terms of finances and faithfulness. As I’ve said many times, there is *no way* I could have taken on that role without confidence in our CCC leaders. *Many* thanks to our Officers, Deacons, Trustees, and ministry team leaders! I’ll complete my term as RMC Moderator at the 2025 General Synod in July. *Phew!*

After 7 years at the Red Church in 2024, I was afforded a 3-month sabbatical. I stepped away from day-to-day ministry for half that time – taking 6 weeks to start a writing project that I’ll continue to develop through 2025 (and likely beyond!). I so appreciate all of you – especially our Deacons – allowing me to take a brief season to focus on a different expression of ministry than what I’ve done before. I hope it will become something useful down the road.

I’m excited about what lies ahead for our influence as a faith community in Creede and each of the places we represent. We continue to gather stakeholders in Mineral County to address concerns related to housing, addiction, and behavioral health. Let me know if you are interested in using your gifts in any of these areas.

As for the church building itself, we finally secured a bid toward the end of 2024 for long-needed exterior painting. And, in record time, we raised more than the \$30,000 we needed! So, we’re scheduling that work for this summer. Next, we’ll focus on replacing our furnaces. Once we have figures in hand, we’ll do what we can to raise needed funds and start that work in 2025, as well.

Meanwhile, our Trustees continue to keep the wheels on our operating budget wagon. We can expect to hear financial updates from them throughout the year. Helping the whole congregation know what’s going on will help us stay on solid financial footing and avoid falling into a pattern of significant deficit spending in the years ahead.

All this to say, I’m so thankful for the commitment of our leaders! The reports in this packet represent the wisdom, faithfulness, generosity, and welcome of God’s Spirit in and through this congregation throughout 2024. Well done, everyone! Here’s to an amazing 2025!

Blessings on your head,
Sarah

CLERK'S REPORT

Annual Clerk's Report for 2024 by Francine Moyer

Total Current Members: 135 as of December 31, 2024

- Welcomed 7 new members:
 - Julia Blanks, Member, March 10
 - Tim Blanks, Member, March 10
 - Debbie Clapper, Member, February 11
 - Jon Clapper, Member, February 11
 - Keith Mendeke, Member, August 4
 - Karen Parker, Associate Member, September 29
 - Terry Parker, Associate Member, September 29

- Marriages in 2024:
 - None

- Baptisms in 2024:
 - None

- Confirmations in 2024:
 - None

- Those who passed from us in 2024:
 - Gail O,Connor, Member, January 20
 - Anne Brunsvold, Friend, January 30
 - Delen Coln, Friend, February 16
 - Penny Newman, Friend, March 29
 - Judy Paysee, Associate Member, May 13

- Membership Terminations:
 - Kathryn Friend, Associate Member, transferred
 - 7 Members and 5 Associate Members were removed due to inactivity for two or more years

TRUSTEES REPORT

The primary function of the Board of Trustees is financial oversight. It is the responsibility of the members to create a budget to present to the congregation with oversight throughout the year. Unlike many organizations, the church has chosen to operate with a deficit budget, meaning that our budgeted expenses exceed our budgeted revenues. We operate on faith to provide for our community through missions and outreach like Helping Hands, Mission Trips, Projects, and other projects.

The annual budget for 2024 planned for a deficit of about \$22,000. We ended the year with expenses exceeding income by about \$30,000. A large portion of this overage was due to ongoing maintenance and repair of the parsonage. While the church dipped into savings to meet our operating and maintenance expenses, we are still very financially sound and have adopted a new method to budget and raise funds for capital expenses.

Starting in 2025, capital and maintenance expenses (like painting the church) have been removed from the operating budget and will be funded by special pledge drives. Additionally, we are establishing a team to help evaluate the church's buildings and create a multi-year plan to address deferred maintenance on problem areas and proactively plan for future maintenance.

Each summer, we hold a stewardship campaign, inviting pledges toward the following year's operating budget. This helps our Trustees anticipate overall giving and determine a realistic budget. Our 2025 pledges are over \$20k higher than what was pledged for 2024. With the additional pledges expected this year, our 2025 budget includes a \$23k deficit. To track this deficit and additional gifts given against it, we have added a new line to the budget titled "God Money." The Trustees will report to the congregation on a quarterly basis to track our financial situation.

Overall, the church is overwhelmingly blessed by our financial position. The Trustees will continue to carefully watch over us, maintaining our position for the future.

Submitted by
Michael Meals, Trustee Chair

DEACONS REPORT

Many thanks to the Deacons serving in 2024: Bethany Andre, Linda Dubbs, Billy Fairchild, Scotty Lamb, Carol Pierce, and Millynn Teal.

Carol Pierce will stay on for another year and Millynn Teal, having filled out a partial term, will serve a 3-year term, starting at the 2025 Annual Meeting. In 2026, Bethany Andre and Billy Fairchild will “graduate” from the Deacons, having completed two consecutive terms.

We are so grateful to our worship team members, including Music Director Debbie Whitmore, who helps provide such graceful accompaniment, along with Johanna Gray and Meg Marino. We are blessed with such enriching music each time we meet.

“Deacon Sunday” worship services continue each quarter, which has allowed us to provide Pastor Sarah some relief and different perspectives to the congregation. In 2024, we led services for 6 weeks in a row and welcomed three guest preachers during Sarah’s half-sabbatical. This was a great learning experience for us and strengthened our communication and commitment as a team.

Once again in 2024, we saw several new folks join the church, which is always exciting. We held “Coffee with the Deacons” sessions to share stories, discuss faith, and answer questions. Throughout the year, we tried to let members, friends, and neighbors know that the Red Church is here for them to help with practical needs and/or prayer requests. This included sending greeting cards to many of our congregants near and far during Advent.

Deacons set up and serve Communion each month and help with First Sunday Potluck in the off-season, which continues to be fun, delicious, and full of fellowship with one another. We also assisted with Tech Dinners for the Creede Theatre in 2024 and look forward to similar opportunities in 2025.

We are so grateful for our faithful congregation and are honored to serve Creede Community Church. Please remember that we are here for you, we pray for you, and we love you. Never hesitate to let us know how we can help, and please don’t forget to keep your Deacons in your prayers.

Millynn Teal, on behalf of the Board of Deacons

WORSHIP AND MUSIC REPORT

In 2024 we had a dedicated group of singers and musicians that enriched our worship services throughout the year. We are so appreciative of the choir members who meet weekly at 10 am as they are available.

Pianists Johanna Gray and Megan Marino, with my assistance as a substitute, provided accompaniment and worship music for the services.

Special music was performed by visitors and summer residents including John Green and Wyatt Henderson.

We hosted two community events including the Creede Pride Day service and the Creede Community Christmas Celebration.

In addition, the church hosted rehearsals for the Creede Community Choir in preparation for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Services. Creede Musical Arts Collective held master classes and concerts in our sanctuary.

Submitted by Music Director, Debbie Whitmore

CHRISTIAN LIFE EDUCATION

by Kate Michaels

Current: Christian Life Education at CCC

1. We currently have five volunteers that teach Sunday School at CCC. As always, we would welcome additional volunteers to assist with children's enrichment.
2. During our annual Christian Life Education meeting (April 4th, 2024) we discussed 1) the previous 2023-2024 year, 2) supplies, 3), safe church policy, 4) goals/projects for the upcoming year, and 5) other business. Based on conversation that took place during this meeting, we decided to:
 - a. Extend our Celebrate Wonder Curriculum by utilizing one lesson over a 2-week time period (wk 1: younger child lessons, wk 2: older child lessons)
 - b. Seek to find ways to engage our congregants in the 12-18 year old range that no longer attend Sunday School
 - c. Create binders (coloring tools, activity pages, etc.) for children that would like to stay in the main church service, or for weeks when we may not have a Sunday School instructor
 - d. Incorporate a "children's time" into the adult church service on alternate weeks in order to offset the shortage of Sunday School volunteers
 - e. Create and maintain a curriculum binder in the CCC office space so that teachers can easily access the curriculum, including activities to be copied for Sunday School
3. During our last annual meeting I had mentioned the possibility of needing two Sunday School classes as we had a significant number of children in the 2-6 age range, as well as the 7-10 age range. Sadly, we've had several wonderful CCC families - with young children - move away from Creede over the previous year.
4. Michelle Meals had the idea of hosting a "Parents Night Out" event where CCC would provide babysitting so that parents could have an evening out. Jenni Harbour and Sarah Linn continued forward with the concept, and our first "Parent's Night Out" will occur on Friday, January 31st.

Possible Action Items: 2025-2026

1. We have yet to create the activity binders that children have the option of using during the adult church service, but I believe this would be helpful and a goal for the upcoming year.
2. I have been the Christian Life Education Chair for the previous 3 years, and my term will end in 2026. Are there others that may be interested in taking on this role in the future?
3. It would be wonderful if we could give the Sunday School room a refresher/update
4. Outreach/Collaboration with the Baptist Church in regards to Wednesday Night Youth Group
5. Evaluate curriculum during Christian Life Education Meeting in the spring

MISSION/OUTREACH AND HELPING HANDS

by Bethany Andre, Chair

Special thanks to returning team members Jamie McLeroy, Margaret Phillips, Carol Pierce, Linda Walker, Linda and Mike Dubbs, and Jana Bean Wilson for their excellent work this year!

In 2025 we are wishing a very fond and grateful Bon Voyage to Jana Bean Wilson, who is relocating to Thailand for at least 2 years. We are so thankful to her commitment to our church and community! 2025 will see Mike Dubbs taking on even greater responsibility, co-chairing the Mission & Outreach team along with Bethany, who remains the administrator for Helping Hands.

2024 HELPING HANDS ASSISTANCE

Again this year, we were able to provide financial assistance to all community members who made requests! We gave over \$6000 to cover a wide range of needs including medical and dental bills, utilities, disaster funds, rent and winter heating costs. Helping Hands ended 2024 with a balance of \$3,677.47 (not including deposits totalling \$801 from the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service).

2024 MISSION/OUTREACH CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Thanks to God's faithfulness and the unfailing generosity of our community we were able to send thousands of dollars in contributions to ministry partners including Creede Early Learning Center, La Puente, Creede Public School District (mental health services), Creede Repertory Theatre (youth program scholarships), Creede Dental Works, Zuni Missionary School in New Mexico and Backbay Mission. We also contributed to the UCC's "Our Church's Wider Mission" fund and two special UCC offerings ("Neighbors in Need" and "Strengthening the Church").

Preventative Dental Care Initiative

Mission & Outreach has been partnering with Creede Dental Works to provide preventative care for local children and Veterans. Our dental hygienist provides preventative care including cleanings, x-rays, fluoride and other services discounted by 50%. 18 families have benefited from this program since it began in Dec 2023.

Local Care Packages

We continue a care package program for local residents. This allows us to purchase OTC medications and supplements, soup, tea, juice, tissues and little happies/cheer 'em ups at Kentucky Belle to deliver to neighbors in need due to illness, disaster and/or bereavement.

Socksgiving! 2024

During 2024's Socksgiving!, we collected and delivered 751 brand new pairs of socks to support La Puente's efforts to serve those experiencing homelessness in the San Luis Valley.

La Puente Christmas Tree

Mission & Outreach offered the congregation the opportunity to serve the clients of La Puente, through donating toys and gifts via a gift tree.

Kentucky Belle Holiday Gift Cards

Mission & Outreach donated \$1000 worth of K-belle gift cards for community members in need as the holidays approached. Silver Thread Public Health assisted in disseminating these gift cards locally.

Backbay Mission Trip to Biloxi (Feb 2025)

Due to traveling schedules, weather and boulders through roofs, we did not have a team to send this year. Again this year, we were able to make a \$1000 donation to this deserving mission.

As arms that reach out into the community to show the love of God, we are excited by the progress we've made in 2024. We continue to welcome all church members to join the Mission & Outreach Team or to participate in any of our projects!

LADIES AID SOCIETY

by Lori Dooley, President

Since 1899 the Ladies Aid Society has been able to celebrate the spirit of giving. We joyfully celebrated our 125th anniversary all last year! We had an amazing Anniversary committee that planned for a year to mark the occasion. With their guidance we celebrated with the Number one July 4th float. We had members dressing up to represent every decade starting with 1899 fashion. Women walked along the float that was decorated like a birthday cake! Also riding on the float were many young people representing the future members! Our thanks go out to the amazing Anniversary Committee for all the hours of work they contributed.

Along with the July parade LAS partnered with the Elks, also celebrating 125 years, to provide a picnic for the community. We had a bigger turnout than expected requiring a couple trips to the KBell! Fun was had by all.

As with many years in the past, we participated in the Chocolate Festival, setting up the Christmas Corner full of lovely items to sell starting off the Christmas season. We were the very proud winners of the contest, both days. People would ask what we received if we won. We proudly answered, bragging rights for the year! We want to thank the busy hands of Sewing Sisters for making many items for sale during the Month of December. The sewing sisters also make items all year to bless the residents of Home Lake Veterans home.

The work of the women of LAS, along with their faithful spouses and other male members of the community lovingly referred to as the Men's Auxiliary, peaked during the second week of July when the frenzy of the annual Bazaar and Rummage Sale raised over \$33,000! We are also grateful to friends both in the community and beyond who regularly make donations to our organization to help us continue the work we have been called to do.

These activities result in our ability to bless our community. LAS was able to give over 20,000 in grants to various community organizations in need. In addition, we continue to help individuals in the community who need help with rent, medical and dental bills, wood, propane, electric bills, medical supplies, travel expenses and more.

We are truly blessed to be participants in this amazing organization now and in the future. We are certain that the oldest Non-profit organization in mineral county will still be strong for the next 125 years!

**Creede Community Church
Banking Signatures Motion February 2025**

A motion is made to set the following individuals as signers to the Creede Community Church Checking account at the Del Norte Bank as of February 16, 2025. These individuals will be the only signers going forward. Other previous signers are to be removed from the signature card.

Thomas Basler
Julia Blanks
William Fairchild
Therese Hargraves
James Nicholas VanRy, Sr.
Thomas Schrandt

A motion is made to set the following individuals as signers to the Creede Community Church Certificate of Deposit account at the Community Banks of Colorado as of February 16, 2025. These individuals will be the only signers going forward. Other previous signers are to be removed from the signature card.

Julia Blanks
Leslie Dustin
Thomas Schrandt

2025 Officers, Trustees, Deacons & Ministry Teams Nominations for Congregational Vote in Red

Officers:
1-year terms
3 term limit

Moderator: Lori Dooley (2nd yr)
Vice Moderator: Leslie Dustin (1st yr)
Clerk: Francine Moyer (3rd yr)
Treasurer: Julia Blanks (1st yr)

Pastor Relations:
reports to Officers

Leslie Dustin, Officer
Billy Fairchild, Deacon
Jake & Jenni Harbour, Trustee

Deacons:
6 members
3-year terms
2 term limit

Bethany Andre (2026)
Billy Fairchild (2026)
Linda Dubbs (2027)
Scott Lamb (2027)
Carol Pierce (2028)
Millynn Teal (2028)

Seasonal Deacons may be appointed by the Board.

Worship Committee:
reports to Deacons
open to more participants

Johanna Gray
Megan Marino
Millynn Teal
Debbie Whitmore

Trustees:
6 members
3-year terms

Michael Meals, chair (2026)
Jake & Jenni Harbour (2026) – serving jointly/one vote
Michael Dubbs (2027)
Bill Jenkins & Barb Roughton (2027) – serving jointly/one vote
Keith Mendeke (2028)
Debbie Whitmore (2028)

**Mission & Outreach/
Helping Hands**
reports to the Board
at least 5 members
serving 2-year terms
open to more participants

Bethany Andre, Co-chair, HH (2026)
Michael Dubbs, Co-chair, M/O (2027)
Jamie McLeroy, Helping Hands (2026)
Linda Dubbs (2026)
Tim Blanks (2027)
Carol Pierce (2027)
Linda Walker (2027)

Ministry Teams, continued

Ladies Aid Society:
reports to the Board
officers serve 2-year terms

Lori Dooley, president (Sept. 2025)
Millynn Teal, vice president (Sept. 2026)
Linda Walker, treasurer (Sept. 2025)
Kelly Thornton, secretary (Sept. 2026)

Sewing Sisters: Sherrie Hosselkus
reports to Ladies Aid and friends

Christian Life Education: Kate Michaels, chair (Sunday School coordinator) (2026)
reports to Deacons
at least 4 members
serving 2-year terms
open to more participants
Millynn Teal (2027)
Linda Walker (2026)

Safe Church Team: Jenni Harbour, Trustee Representative
works with CLE
reports to Moderator
Debbie Whitmore, Member-at-Large
Kate Michaels, Christian Ed Representative

Proposed 2025 Budget

Creede Community Church	2024 FINAL	2024 BUDGET	2025 Budget
Revenue	153,104	163,800	172,704
God Money			23,846
Total Revenue			196,550
Mission and Outreach	17,382	20,700	21,600
Pastoral Expenses	91,446	94,555	100,400
Ministry Expenses	1,106	2,850	2,600
Church Facility Expenses	23,021	27,378	28,400
Parsonage Expenses	15,079	6,400	5,600
Insurance Expenses	8,256	7,700	9,000
Administrative Expenses	25,385	26,665	28,950
Total Expenses	181,674	186,248	196,550
Over/Under	(28,571)	(22,448)	-

Creede Community Church
Income Statement and Balance Sheet
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2024

	Current Actual	Current Budget	Current Over/Under	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under	Annual Budget
Revenues							
Pledges & Open Plate	19,369.25	18,000.00	1,369.25	131,204.70	140,000.00	(8,795.30)	140,000.00
Memorial Contribution	300.00	200.00	100.00	1,000.00	800.00	200.00	800.00
Bazaar/Ladies Aids Pro	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	13,000.00	2,000.00	13,000.00
Mission/Outreach Fund	200.00	2,000.00	(1,800.00)	350.00	2,000.00	(1,650.00)	2,000.00
Other Donations and In	4,191.92	250.00	3,941.92	8,595.14	8,000.00	595.14	8,000.00
Total Revenues	24,061.17	20,450.00	3,611.17	156,149.84	163,800.00	(7,650.16)	163,800.00
Expenditures							
Mission and Outreach	6,470.00	2,300.00	(4,170.00)	17,581.73	20,700.00	3,118.27	20,700.00
Pastoral Expenses	10,240.11	8,300.51	(1,939.60)	91,445.86	94,554.90	3,109.04	94,554.90
Ministry Expenses	203.88	525.00	321.12	1,106.40	2,850.00	1,743.60	2,850.00
Church Facilities Expe	2,865.00	1,559.50	(1,305.50)	23,021.07	27,378.00	4,356.93	27,378.00
Parsonage Facilities Ex	703.93	245.00	(458.93)	15,078.57	6,400.00	(8,678.57)	6,400.00
Insurance Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,256.00	7,700.00	(556.00)	7,700.00
Administrative Expens	1,703.32	2,464.61	761.29	25,384.86	26,664.86	1,280.00	26,664.86
Total Expenditures	22,186.24	15,394.62	(6,791.62)	181,874.49	186,247.76	4,373.27	186,247.76
Revenue Over/Under	1,874.93	5,055.38	3,180.45	(25,724.65)	(22,447.76)	3,276.89	(22,447.76)
Non-Operating Income/Expenditures							
Carryforward from Prio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,647.76	31,647.76	31,647.76
Parsonage Electrical U	0.00	0.00	0.00	(9,150.00)	(9,200.00)	(50.00)	(9,200.00)
Net Non-Operating Inc	0.00	0.00	0.00	(9,150.00)	22,447.76	31,597.76	22,447.76
Net Income	1,874.93	5,055.38	3,180.45	(34,874.65)	0.00	34,874.65	0.00

Creede Community Church
Income Statement and Balance Sheet
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2024

	Current Actual	Current Budget	Current Over/Under	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under	Annual Budget
Balance Sheet							
Cash and Other Current Assets		\$	128,773.77				
Church Building			431,688.56				
Parsonage			121,495.69				
Fellowship Hall			271,103.64				
			<u> </u>				
Total Assets				\$	953,061.66		
					<u> </u>		
Payroll and Other Liabilities		\$	3,873.79				
Fund Balance Beg. of Year			979,062.52				
Designated Fund Bal. - Bldg.			5,000.00				
Revenue Over/Under Expenditure			(34,874.65)				
			<u> </u>				
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance				\$	953,061.66		
					<u> </u>		
Helping Hands Summary							
DN Bank Helping Hands Checking		\$	3,677.47				
Helping Hands Fund Bal 1/1/24			3,245.41				
Helping Hands Income			6,702.51				
Helping Hands Expenses			(6,270.45)				
			<u> </u>				
Net Helping Hands Balance To Date		\$	3,677.47				
			<u> </u>				
Caring Corps Summary							
Caring Corps Checking Account		\$	1,491.30				
Caring Corps Balance 1/1/2024			2,004.16				
Caring Corps Income			1,200.00				
Caring Corps Interest Inc.			0.99				
Caring Corp Expenses			(1,713.85)				
			<u> </u>				
Net Caring Corps Balance to Date		\$	1,491.30				
			<u> </u>				
Ladies Aid Society Summary							
Ladies Aid Society Checking		\$	27,643.58				
Ladies Aid Society Savings			887.46				
			<u> </u>				
Total Ladies Aid Cash/Investments		\$	28,531.04				
			<u> </u>				
Ladies Aid Fund Balance 1/1/24		\$	39,076.63				
Ladies Aid Society Income			45,168.47				
Ladies Aid Expenses			(55,714.06)				
			<u> </u>				
Net Ladies Aid Balance To Date		\$	28,531.04				
			<u> </u>				