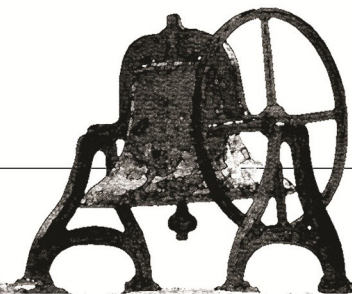


Nov—Dec 2025  
Christmas issue



Valmont



# VINTAGE

CELEBRATING *164* years OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS!



## Valmont Community Presbyterian Church



THE Fellowship OF PRESBYTERIANS



**Teddie McConnell**  
Bridge Pastor

As the days shorten and the trees gradually change color from green to reds, oranges and golds, we find ourselves pulling out our winter clothes and preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We can be thankful that God has provided another harvest and given us homes that are safe and warm to sustain us until the world spins back to the spring. Of course, that’s the idea behind the Thanksgiving holiday.

Giving thanks for what we have, though, reminds us of the people in our area that don’t have enough, that are hungry or

even homeless. The Deacons are donating to several worthy causes in Boulder that provide food and shelter, and they can always use more funds. The basket in the sanctuary can be filled with food for the food bank as well. We give out of gratitude, not out of a sense of obligation or guilt. We are blessed, so we choose to bless others.

I was in the grocery store just before Halloween and noticed the stockers switching out the seasonal merchandise from Halloween costumes and candy to wrapping supplies and Christmas decorations. The commercialization of Christmas is rampant and has begun earlier every year. The busy-ness (and business) of celebrating Christmas is already starting. At Valmont, we’re in the process of planning the special services that come with the Christmas season, including Blue Christmas and the Christmas Eve Service

It’s time to remember the holy purpose of Advent, our season of anticipating the birth of a Savior to those in desperate need of hope. We can pray and plan for the bright future that God has in store, not only for the world, but also for our church. It’s a great time to invite friends and neighbors to join us as we look for God’s new thing at

### Ask a friend to join you.

You Have A Friend At Valmont!

**Worship at 10:30**  
**Sunday School at 9am**

3262 N. 61st Street,  
Boulder  
(61st Street & Valmont Road)

**303-442-2135**  
[www.ValmontChurch.org](http://www.ValmontChurch.org)

Valmont.

As a part of the 30-day church growth plan, the session has designed and printed up invitations to our church that have worship information and a map with our location, and they’re ready for everyone to take and pass around. Statistics show that 80% of those you know would be open to an invitation to church. What a great Christmas gift it would be to have more wonderful people to worship with us!

Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in how to grow the special church we share!





# Pig Roasts and Potlucks



## Classic Colorado Chili

From the Kitchen of Barb Hunter



### Ingredients:

- |                |                         |                |                                |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| * 2 lbs        | Pounds hamburger        | * 1 tbsp       | Oil                            |
| * 3 stalks     | Celery chopped fine     | * 3 cloves     | Garlic chopped fine            |
| * 2 large      | Onions chopped fine     | * 2 16oz can   | Tomato, or 1 quart home canned |
| * 3 8 oz cans  | Tomato sauce            | * 1 tbsp       | Salt                           |
| * 1/2 tsp      | Pepper, course          | * 2 ea         | Bay leaves                     |
| * 3 tbsp       | Chili Powder            | * 2 ea         | Green Chili peppers, minced    |
| * 1 tsp        | Oregano                 | * 1/4 tsp      | Cumin                          |
| * 6 whole      | Allspice                | * 3 tbsp       | Sugar                          |
| * 2 15 oz cans | Pinto Beans, un-drained | * 2 15 oz cans | Kidney Beans, un-drained       |

### Instructions:

Brown meat, onion and garlic in oil. Add all other ingredients. Simmer 1 to 1/1/2 hours uncovered.

## Maple Pecan Refrigerator Cookies from Joy's kitchen

Makes about 40

- ◆ 1 cup softened butter
- ◆ 1 large egg yolk
- ◆ 2 cups flour
- \* 1/2 cup sugar
- \* 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- \* 1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
- \* 3 Tbsp real maple syrup (not pancake syrup)
- \* 1/2 tsp maple extract

### Directions:

1. Beat butter for 3 minutes or until creamy. Beat in sugar gradually. Add syrup, egg yolk, and extracts; beat well. Stir in flour and pecans.
2. Divide dough in half and shape into logs 2 inches in diameter. Wrap in plastic wrap or parchment and refrigerate until firm.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
4. Cut logs into 1/2-inch-thick rounds; arrange on greased cookie sheets. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.

## Sausage and Tortellini Soup



### Ingredients:

- \* 2 14-1/2-ounce cans Italian-style stewed tomatoes
- \* 3 cups water
- \* 2 cups loose-pack frozen cut green beans or Italian-style green beans
- \* 1 10-1/2-ounce can condensed French onion soup
- \* 8 ounces fully cooked smoked turkey or pork sausage, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/2-inch slices
- \* 2 cups packaged shredded cabbage with carrot (coleslaw mix)
- \* 1 9-ounce package refrigerated cheese-filled tortellini
- \* Shaved or shredded Parmesan cheese 1 large zucchini, quartered

### Instructions

1. In a 4- or 5-quart slow cooker combine undrained tomatoes, water, frozen green beans, onion soup, and turkey sausage.
2. Cover; cook on low-heat setting for 8 to 10 hours or on high-heat setting for 4 to 5 hours.

## **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) - The Search Continues**

November 2025

We are now 10 months into our search for a pastor. Our first match was in December 2024, then we started the interview process in January 2025. We have received 80 Personal Discernment Profiles from Pastors via the Presbytery's Church Leadership Connection system. Of those 80, 20 were self-referred. We have interviewed 10 candidates, 9 of these were self referrals. Of the 9, we have interviewed 2 twice.

When we proceed to a second interview it is because we have a strong interest in that individual. The PNC has spent hours listening and watching church services where the candidate is serving or has served, especially sermons via uTube, Facebook and other social media. The first candidate we interviewed three times but by the end of the third interview, we both realized that she was not the right pastor for Valmont. The second candidate sent an email the day after the second interview stating he did not feel it was the right position for him. He was looking for a larger church where he would have a good sized staff to work with. He was also looking for a church with thriving programming for younger families, children, and youth.

Although this long unfruitful search is frustrating, we continue to pray and remind ourselves that our ongoing search is in God's hands and His timing will be perfect. We will keep our hearts and minds open and receptive to His guidance. Please continue to pray for the PNC.

Steven Clem  
PNC Chair



### **Women's Association**

**Women's Assoc. will host an Open House Christmas Crafting Day, Dec 6, from 1 to 4 pm.**

Mark the date and bring that special craft item and materials for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. If you have crafting materials that you would like to recycle, please bring those to share with others. We will be reaching out to the community to join us.

Please come to our monthly meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month at 10 am. We are studying "Relaxed, Letting Go of Self-Reliance and Trusting God" by Megan Fate Marshman. We meet at 10:00 am to noon followed by a potluck lunch. Making youth and baby blankets or quilts for Project Lynus is our ongoing project.

Submitted by Pres, Peggy Moore



and



### Eagle Scout Project



Have you noticed the benches out on the patio have been refinished and repaired? Go check them out. A big thank you goes to Syed Ahsen Ali who did the work as an Eagle Scout Project. Syed attended the Observatory meeting held on August 4th for Scouts. He noticed our benches were not looking very good and decided to take them on as his project. Syed worked several Saturdays at the church to complete all the work. He even took a couple benches home during the week to shorten the length of time it took to complete the project. We are thankful to Syed for

making our benches more usable and good looking.

Submitted by Joyce



### Don and Ruth

Sunday November 2 coffee hour was party time 🎉 for the whole church to celebrate Ruth and Don Lewis's many years of truly amazing faithful service to Valmont!!! Everybody had a great time and enjoyed the cake, cupcakes, and good snack provided by Patrick Huson.

Thank-you Ruth & Don! 🌹

We love you! 💕





## Operation Christmas Child



National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes is November 17-24, 2025. Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out these boxes which are often the first gifts the children have ever received. In addition to the boxes the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way as an expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community. Ruth T.



## Lake Water Quality and Environment

Mike met with Iayana Rael, Marda Kirn and Sabrina Kleinman to walk around the lake and to determine water quality and any environmental issues.

Marda Creazzi Kirn, director of EcoArts Connections, integrates the arts, science, social justice, Indigenous & other ways of knowing, inspiring people to live more sustainably. Her programs at San Lázaro Mobile Home Park, our neighbor, led her to help begin addressing problems in their drinking water source, Cline Pond. She is researching local impacts of contamination at Valmont Butte, and collaborates with other ngo, government, and university entities.

Marda Creazzi Kirn, director of EcoArts Connections, which brings the arts together with science, social justice, Indigenous, and other ways of knowing to inspire people to live more sustainably.

Sabrina Kleinman, Ecological Restoration/Environmental Planning specialist

We are going to reach out and meet again to determine a plan.

Mike

## The Deacons' Corner—Submitted by Debby G.

As food resources continues to be a real issue, please consider donating additional items to the deacon's Caring Basket for the Round Pantry. Items collected will be delivered November 10th, November 24th and December 8th; canned protein such as peanut butter, canned tuna or canned chicken are always needed as well as cereal.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your soul.

Your faithful VCPC Deacons: John Olson [jolson100@yahoo.com](mailto:jolson100@yahoo.com),  
 Debby Clem [debcclem@comcast.net](mailto:debcclem@comcast.net),  
 Debbie Greever [debgreever@gmail.com](mailto:debgreever@gmail.com)



## Stella Pradeau Studio

Piano lessons have been going well this semester. This past summer 3 students began beginner lessons with me and I've added a 4th this fall--it's very gratifying and inspiring. I look forward to it and I return home exhausted. Private teaching demands a lot of energy!

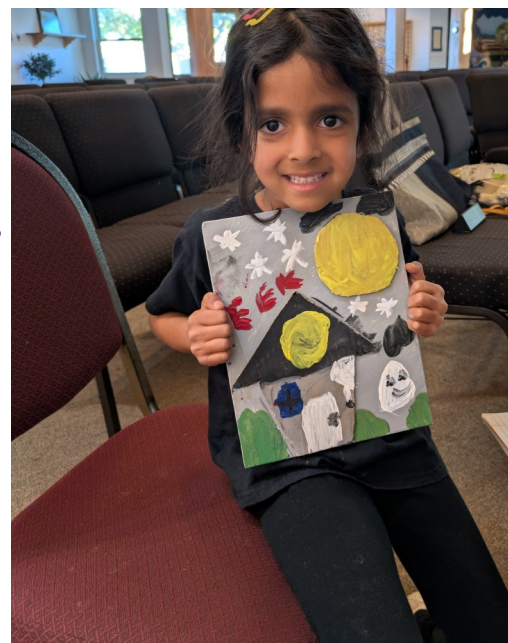
Thank you so much for allowing me use of the sanctuary and piano. It is working really well for my families. Most parents/grandparents stay in the space and listen to the lesson (while on their smartphones, of course. 😞) and one father is able to work in the parlor. Everything is quiet and calm and perfect for a distraction-free learning environment. I'm loving it!

\*Student Spotlight\* Mia Saha, age 5

Mia's favorite color is, surprise, PINK! She loves Art and often brings samples of her work to share with me--a beautiful picture is showcased in my kitchen. Mia is so loving and sweet. I haven't had a student quite like her. She brings an enthusiasm and joy to the lesson that always cheers me. At school Mia enjoys art class and also mathematics; on the playground she hangs with her friends Lily and Felix and their favorite game is "skydiving" (swinging on a rope). Favorite things about VCP and

our lesson space include "seeing Ms. Stella 😊", playing on an acoustic piano (all my students have electric keyboards) and sighting the Turkeys!

Her favorite piece at the moment is I Love Coffee, I Love Tea.





Great music on Oct. 26 by Emma Patterson



## Music for the Holidays

I'd love to start planning ahead for our **Christmas Eve service** and am taking requests for favorite pieces or carols you'd like to sing this year from the choir. Please send me your suggestions — I'd love your input!

### Handbell Ringers:

If you're available on Wednesdays from now until Christmas Eve and would be interested in performing that evening, please let me know as well. It would be wonderful to include you in the celebration!

Jack

## 1 CORINTHIANS 13 - A CHRISTMAS VERSION -

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at meal-time, but do not show love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.  
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.  
Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Have a great CHRISTMAS season.



## It's your Vintage

Anyone who would like to contribute articles, pictures, recipes or anecdotes, please submit by the 20th prior to publication month to **Mike Greever** via email at [mgreever53@gmail.com](mailto:mgreever53@gmail.com) or give to **Ella** in the office.

**Publication Months: Jan (Winter), Mar (Spring), June (Summer), Sept (Fall), Nov (Christmas).**