

April Birthdays		April Anniversaries	
24	Nita Hansen	18	Linda & Terry Reader

April 12, 2026		
Greeters:	Len Gates	Terry Reader
Announcements:	Kelly Beek	
Song Leader:	Dan Greene	
Opening Prayer:	Terry Reader	
Closing Prayer:	Kelly Beek	
Lord's Table:	Stanten Sikes	Gene Petersen
	Lincoln Gates	Stacey Moss
Coordinator:	Dan Greene	



When you visit us... April 5, 2026

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Minister of the Word – Steve Byrne
P.O. Box 1479 * 16310 County Road 306 * Buena Vista, CO 81211
(719) 395-8753 * email: mvccbv81@gmail.com
www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org

Sunday	Wednesday
10:00 amBible Class	7:00 pm.....Devotional
11:00 am.....Assembly	or Bible Class
Noon.....Fellowship Meal	
1:30 pm.....Devotional	

Mission Work Areas
Quito, Ecuador
Mazatlán, Mexico
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

Elders
Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

Deacons
Stacey Moss (719) 207-0588
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

New Prayer Requests

Glenda Cox's mom – passed away Monday (March 23) evening. Please keep her and Glenda in your prayers.
Al Olguin & family – Al's mother, Consuela, passed away Wednesday (March 25) morning. Please remember Al and the family in your prayers.
Melissa Waigle (Fulton's daughter) – her cancer has reoccurred. Not sure what is to come yet. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.
Don Cox – back problems. May need surgery. Please keep him and Glenda in your prayers.
Ian & Linda Stewart – both have been struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your prayers.
Terry Reader – upcoming hernia surgery and prostate issues

Long Term Prayer List

Stanten Sikes	Richard Pedrie
Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Ron Hansen
Marilyn Bartlow	Betty & Danny Sidebottom
Marian Like	Linda Beek – hip & back problems
Patricia Bulmer (Scott's mom)	Teresa & John Grady – various issues
Kelly Mortensen (Toni G's dad)– kidney cancer	Lola Gates (Len's mom) – recovering from her fall – will likely have surgery
Linda Reader – cancer follow-ups	Ellen Furby – recovering from her fall

If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 tdr1960@yahoo.com
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 lintreader@myct1.net

It Is Not in Man to Direct His Own Steps

Eric Hamilton

The prophet Jeremiah declared, *"I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man who walks to direct his steps."* ([Jeremiah 10:23](#)) This truth finds support in surprising places, including modern scientific research.

A few years ago, a report on NPR described experiments conducted by scientists examining how people navigate without visual cues. In one test, researchers took participants to an open field, blindfolded them, and instructed them to walk in a straight line as best they could. In another variation, they placed people in a dense forest on an overcast day when the sun remained hidden. The subjects received directions to maintain a straight course.

At first, the walkers proceeded with confidence. Before long, however, they began to curve gradually and eventually walked in wide circles. This pattern repeated consistently across different individuals. People believed they moved straight ahead, yet their paths curved back on themselves. No physical cause, such as one slightly longer leg or dominant side could explain why people walked in circles despite thinking they were heading straight.

The studies revealed a clear requirement for straight-line travel. Walkers needed a stable reference point. This might be a distant mountain or a large building visible on the horizon. Alternatively, they required the sun or moon positioned in the sky to serve as a fixed marker for orientation. Without such an anchor, the human sense of direction fails over distance.

This physical reality mirrors our sense of spiritual direction. In moral and ethical decisions, human beings face the same limitation. When we attempt to guide our own course through life relying solely on personal judgment or immediate desires, we tend to deviate from the proper path. We require a steady, unchanging reference point.

Consider one vivid example from the book of Proverbs chapter 7. Solomon described looking out his window and observing a young man who lacked good judgment. This youth walked along the street near the corner of a certain woman's house in the twilight. The woman approached him with persuasive words and enticements. Within a short time, she succeeded in drawing him toward her house.

Solomon observed this scene and compared it to several familiar images. First, he likened the young man to an ox being led to slaughter. The animal follows the farmer contentedly, showing no awareness it is walking itself to its own demise.

Solomon further pictured a deer caught in a trap and an arrow piercing through its liver. The tragedy lies in realizing the fatal threat only after the injury occurs. By that time, corrective action is too late. In the same manner, the young man ignores warnings and takes no precautions until irreversible consequences have already taken hold.

Finally, the image of a bird darting toward a snare completes the picture. The bird spots the bait and rushes forward eagerly, determined to seize it before others arrive. In its haste, it overlooks the trap designed to capture it. The young man behaved likewise; he saw an opportunity and charged ahead without thought for danger.

In each of these illustrations, the threat was not hidden or difficult to detect under normal circumstances. The real issue arose because the person became absorbed in the pursuit of temporary satisfaction. This absorption blocked awareness of the surrounding circumstances.

These observations extend far beyond the temptation of sexual sin. Proverbs warns again that *"The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble"* (4:19). If we proceed according to our own direction without careful attention, we risk traveling that same darkened way.

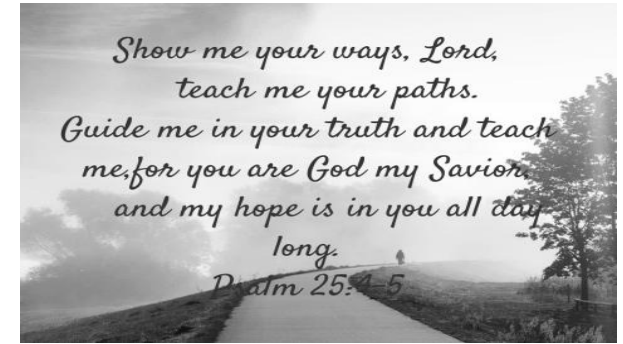
Thankfully, we are not required to remain unaware or to wander without direction. A reliable reference point exists. God offers the fixed marker that enables us to advance in a true course, one that leads to life rather than destruction.

The apostle Paul describes this contrast in his letter to the Ephesians (4:17-24). He notes that people in the world conduct themselves according to their own darkened understanding. They follow patterns that we ourselves once followed. As Christians, however, we must no longer live in that manner. Instead, we are called to renewal in the spirit of our minds. We put away the old self, which grows corrupt through deceitful desires, and we put on the new self. This new self is created in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The apostle Peter provides additional guidance in his second letter. He instructs believers to make every effort to add to their faith qualities such as virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love ([2 Peter 1:5-7](#)). *"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing,"* Peter says, *"they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (v.8). When we focus our attention on God and pursue likeness to him, we gain stability for our daily walk.

We live in a time when many adopt the idea that each person should follow whatever direction seems best according to personal preference. Yet the evidence from both science and Scripture shows that human judgment alone proves unreliable for maintaining a consistent path. Without an unchanging reference point, we naturally curve away from the intended course.

God himself stands as that essential reference. If you find yourself moving in uncertain directions, making repeated efforts to find your way without lasting success, a better option remains available. The way of Christ provides clear direction. As Paul taught in Ephesians, we must set aside the former way of living and adopt the new self. This happens through renewal of the mind and commitment to follow and reflect the character of God.



+++++

From Debbie Olguin

Hi Stanten

I just wanted to let the church family know that Al's mom passed away this morning and would appreciate your prayers for the family.

Consuela Andrea Medina Olguin

Born January 9, 1936 - Went home March 25, 2026 at 90 years old.

She loved and served the Lord her whole life along side her husband of 70 years, Felix. She will be deeply missed.

God bless you all!

Thank you from the Olguin and Davis families.

+++++



We invite you to stay for our Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional!
We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

For your calendar.....

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday – 12:00 Noon
Singing Night	May 6
Ladies Bible Study	May 8 – 11:00 AM