



Greetings!

Here is your January newsletter, The Park View.

A Word from Pastor Rebecca

By Rev. Rebecca Heller

Hello dear Parkview community,

It was exciting to meet with the folks from Food Justice Northwest Aurora (FJNWA) and our Parkview Greenhouse Project committee this week and see the hopes start to take more shape. You will read an update later in this edition of The Park View, but I wanted to express the hope and excitement that I am feeling about working with FJNWA. I expressed my desire to have more conversation with them and Parkview Church about how we can participate in the work of the greenhouse and interact with the community that will be involved. That will definitely be on the agenda as the greenhouse becomes a reality. More to come!

In just a few weeks we will begin the season of Lent and I am busy making plans. During Lent, I will be leading a weekly study on Rise: An Authentic Lenten Devotional by John Pavlovitz. In this Lenten devotional, popular progressive Christian author John Pavlovitz takes us on a transformative spiritual journey. Like the human experience, the spiritual journey is not a level path. It is about the falling and the rising. We allow our hopes to rise when we are in the middle of the struggle. We wait for the sun to rise, knowing that joy comes in the morning. We rise to our feet after falling to our knees in desperate prayer. We rise when we are knocked from our feet, persistent in this. We rise to meet the coming day, knowing we are held by a Love that will have the last word. Rise is a 40-day journey of elevated hopes and ascending spirits. Each entry includes scripture, a reflection, and a prayer. I will be sending around a signup sheet with a few suggested times for our study, so stay tuned for a finalized date and time for our Lenten study.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 18th, and we will join together with some of our sister UCC congregations in a joint service hosted by Kirk of Bonnie Brae UCC at 1201 S Steele St, Denver, CO 80210.

This Sunday our scripture is Matthew 4:12-23 and my sermon is entitled “*Light in a Shadowed Land.*” Here is a blessing for you:

May the light of Christ meet you in every shadowed place.

May hope rise where weariness lingers,

and may you discover that God’s kingdom is already near.

Moderator Moment

By Gary Hansen

It’s a new year and as always, we look forward to new promises and new hopes. As your new Moderator for 2026, I first want to thank Tiana and Natalie for their leadership during the past two years. Great job! I also want to thank Gerrie Hanson, who was the assistant clerk in 2025; she generously gave us her time and talent.

As Parkview moves into this new year, we look forward to seeing the greenhouse project continue forward. We saw people interested in becoming members of our congregation in 2025. Hopefully they will continue that journey. I hope that we will continue to work and dream about where Parkview Church will be in the future. I came back to the church when we were in turmoil and trying to find a way forward. I think that we have steadied our foundation and it’s time to think about bold new prospects. Looking forward to a new year with all of you.

Fiduciary Team Update for January 2026

By Jessie Tramutolo

Our financials show we took in less during December than we expensed out, and we remain ahead for the year. Please read the Financial Notes for December and what else we've been doing.

Month	Income, Actual	Expense, Actual	Income vs. Expense, Actual	Budget YTD Income	Budget YTD Expenses	Budget Year to Date Over/Under
December	\$17,421.41	\$23,975.97	-\$6,654.56			
Year to Date	\$246,201.00	\$204,616.06	\$41,584.94	\$220,592.00	\$213,867.00	\$6,725.00

Financial Notes for December:

Income: The Hebron rent continues to be paid on time. We are waiting for Storytellers' 2025 second semester rent, but office rent is current through November and should catch up when they receive their grants. Several full 2026 pledges from IRAs were paid in December. This doesn't impact the 2025 income because we "park" the funds in a restricted fund for that purpose and transfer the monthly pledge amounts to our income each month, making income flow more even.

Expense: The quarterly property insurance was paid this month. As reported already, this premium has not increased for 2026. No snow has at least been helpful to the Buildings & Grounds expense.

Noisy Offering total for 2025: The grand total is \$810.59. That's a big chunk of change in the buckets! Now that the penny is going away, it's time to go through your jars to find any valuable pennies and drop the rest in the monthly noisy offering. We'll take them to the bank in a wheelbarrow if we must, to help slow down the need for merchants to start rounding up all purchases.

Working through the Final Budget: At our January meeting, we added a request for landscaping expenses. We have asked the Guidance Ministry Team to verify whether the budget amount set aside for our website revision/improvement is sufficient. We continue to wait for any requests from the FJNWA/Greenhouse discussions; there is nothing included in the upcoming budget. **As we've said often, if you have additional 2026 budget requests, the deadline to get them to the Fiduciary Team is January 31.** As you can see by the numbers at the top of the page, we came out ahead \$41,584.94 at the end of 2025, rather than the \$6,725.00 we had originally planned. Before we all get too excited, most of these funds will become part of our 2026 income to present a final balanced budget for vote. The balance of carryover will go in an "emergency" restricted fund. We will know the exact amount after the January 31 deadline for additional fund requests.

Discussion on Parkview's Mailbox Security: This subject was outlined in our November report. We tabled the discussion until our February meeting as Pat Moore, our Assistant Moderator, is new to our team and, along with the rest of the team, wanted to check out the links to mailbox options.

Last Items of Note:

- We have several pledges not yet turned in. It is never too late, so please consider it.
- 2025 giving statements will go out in postal mail next week. Giving envelopes are available, as is autopay, so contact Jessie or Lisa if you want to participate.

Your Fiduciary Team: Team Leader Cheryl Knibbe, Treasurer Mary Crow, Assistant Treasurer Gary Hansen, Financial Secretary Jessie Tramutolo, Assistant Financial Secretary Lisa Cossey. Pat Moore is the liaison to the Operations Team from GMT.

NOTE: Our next meeting: Tuesday, February 10th on Zoom at 4:30 PM.

FJNWA Greenhouse and Update

By John Kimmich, Natalie Nethers, Tana Cesare

Review of our progression with the greenhouse project:

August 17th, 2025 – Presentation by Food Justice North West Aurora (FJNWA) At Parkview in Fellowship Hall. FJNWA was born out of a desire to address urgent gaps in access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food in NW Aurora. The initiatives of FJNWA are grounded in our three strategic pillars: increasing local food production, improving access to nutritious food, and building the food justice movement. It was here at this presentation that they inquired about building their greenhouse on Parkview's lot out back.

October 19th, 2025 – Members of the Parkview congregation and FJNWA met in Fellowship Hall. A Letter of Intent from FJNWA was reviewed and discussed. After the FJNWA team left, the Parkview group agreed in a straw poll to move forward with work on the project. The group from Parkview to work with FJNWA was identified as Natalie Nethers, John Kimmich, and Tiana Cesare. An email address was set up so anyone in the congregation could send additional comments as that team began work.

November 6th, 2025 – Parkview Greenhouse Project (PGP) committee met with Caitlin and Jenna from FJNWA at Parkview and the decision was made to turn the LOI into a Land Lease Agreement for their greenhouse and a Building Use Contract for their workshops and events.

January 20th, 2026 – John Kimmich, Natalie Nethers, Pastor Rebecca and myself, Tiana Cesare, met with Caitlin Matthews and Jenna Smith from FJNWA to hear an update on the progress of utility location for the greenhouse and to look over the draft of the land lease agreement to build their greenhouse. To move this process forward, the PGP Committee is finalizing the details of the Land Lease Agreement. On January 29th, 2026 (no later than January 30th), the committee will email the agreement along with a Call for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 8th, 2026. At that meeting, the congregation will vote on a motion to accept the Land Lease with FJNWA.

PLT Scholarship Applications Now Open

By *Danny Cevallos*

Parkview Congregational Church is now accepting applications for the Paul Thomas Memorial Scholarship.

Paul Thomas was a young member of Parkview Congregational Church as well as the son of former member and then Pastor John Thomas and former Moderator Maggie Thomas. Paul died in a car accident while a student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, cutting short a very promising life. His family along with the church established this memorial scholarship to honor Paul's life and values.

Directives of the scholarship give priority to a qualified graduating senior who has participated in the life of the church in some way. In the event that there are no qualifying Parkview applicants after one month, the next priority is to send scholarship information to counselors in the Aurora Public School District 28J, who can pass the information onto possible applicants.

Scholarship information material is available in the office. The 2026 Scholarship Committee members: Dan Cevallos (Chair), Kathy Hodak, Steve Thomas, Don Seybold and Marcy Neth welcome Parkview applications due by **February 28th**.

Mission/Social Justice for February

By *The Parkview Missions/ Social Justice Team*

As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting local organizations, the Mission/Social Justice Team has selected Three Birds Alliance as Parkview's February mission and invites the congregation to support their important work. Formerly known as Gateway Domestic Violence Services, Three Birds Alliance provides pathways to healing and hope for individuals and families affected by domestic violence. Founded in 1979, it is the only domestic violence agency serving the City of Aurora and Adams and Arapahoe Counties that offers safe shelter and holistic programming for adults, families, and their pets.

In the past year, Three Birds Alliance provided safe shelter to more than 200 individuals and their pets, along with counseling services and job training workshops to help survivors move toward independence. During its 45th anniversary year, the organization reflected on its past, present, and future and adopted a new name that reflects both its growth and the journey of survivors toward independence.

Their new name, Three Birds Alliance, was born from these conversations. The number three represents the past, present, and future; birds symbolize freedom, hope, and transition; and alliance highlights the connectedness amongst clients, staff, and community partners.

The Mission Team extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated outerwear for those in need through our Christmas "Mitten Tree" initiative. We collected 62 coats, jackets, vests, and sweaters, along with 44 hats, 14 scarves, 12 pairs of pants, 9 sets that included hats, gloves, and scarves, 13 pairs of gloves, 30 pairs of socks, and 2 capes. All these items have been packed up and are on their way to Little Flower Assistance Center, Women's Homelessness Initiative, and our local schools.

Thank you for your generosity, which directly benefits individuals and families in our community and nearby areas. Your ongoing support of all our missions is greatly appreciated. Please remember to keep your receipts if you purchase items for donation, as they may be used for tax purposes.

Parkview Fine Arts Festival 2026

By The Fine Arts Committee

The 2026 Fine Arts Festival is just around the corner. Please consider donating snacks and / or cookies to be shared in fellowship throughout the festival or volunteering time (artist check-in, show setup, reception hosts, greeters, sales, and show takedown). See Mary and Eric at church on Sunday, call 303.306.1793, or email emcrow@comcast.net, to volunteer.

Festival Hours

February 19	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
February 20 & 21	10:00 am – 9:00 pm

Special Events

February 20	7:00 pm – Writers' Forum
February 21	7:00 pm – ASO Percussion and Friends - Marimba Hour

What you can expect:

- **ART** includes watercolor, oil, acrylic, digital, textile, pottery, jewelry, photography - just to name a few.
- **Spoken word** at the Writers' Forum where local authors and poets gather and perform readings of their work.
- **Music** – Saturday's evening performance features members of the Aurora Symphony Orchestra Percussion group (and friends). Spend the evening with family and friends supporting a truly local musical experience.

Saturday Book Group

The Saturday Book Group will discuss an encouraging nonfiction book, **THE BOOK OF HOPE: A Survival Guide for Trying Times**. It was written recently by Jane Goodall with Doug Abrams before Jane's death. We will meet Saturday, February 14th at 1:30 PM on ZOOM. Jan Hepp has the link. All are welcome to join in.

The book for March is **HENRY'S TREES** by Jon Cohen

Special Church Business Dates

Sunday, February 8 after Worship:
Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on the Greenhouse Project.

Sunday February 15: 2025 Annual Reports from all Parkview Ministry Teams due to the Office. (Earlier is even better!)

Sunday March 15 after Worship:

Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote to accept the 2025 Annual Report plus the 2025 Fiduciary Report and to approve the 2026 Final Budget.

Chair Yoga Update

By Gerrie Hanson

Our Chair Yoga group had a great first meeting with Alli on January 9th, and we're excited to share that we'll now be meeting once a month on the first Thursday of each month. Our next gathering will be Thursday, February 5th at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Feel free to share this with friends and loved ones. Everyone is welcome! For questions, please contact Mia in the church office. Thank you.

Writer of the Month

Creative Juices is a group interested in developing our writing skills by sharing our work and exchanging constructive criticism. We have changed our meeting on Zoom to the second and fourth Saturday. We welcome writers, whether or not they are part of Parkview. For more information, contact the Parkview office.

Praise

By Sheila Wagoner

I will praise You through my years of
struggle

I will praise You through my days of pain

I will praise You through a life of patience

I will lift up my voice and sing

I will lift up my voice and sing

I will praise You through the years of plenty

In the days through which my laughter rings

I will praise You through the times of
healing

I will lift up my voice and sing

I will lift up my voice and sing

I will praise You whether feast or famine

I will praise You whether the rain or drought

I will praise You whether the joy or sadness

I will lift up my voice

LIFT UP AND SHOUT—

Praise You Lord

I will praise You Lord

I will praise You all the day

Praise You Lord

I want to praise You Lord

I want to praise You all my days

Yes I will I will praise You all my days!

Calendar - February 2026

2/4 - General Maintenance 8:00 AM

2/5 - Chair Yoga (Sanctuary) 3:00 PM

2/9 - Women Alive 12:00 PM

**2/10 - Fiduciary Team Meeting (Zoom)
4:30 PM**

2/11 - General Maintenance 8:00 AM

2/13 - Lunch Box Group 11:30 AM

2/14 - Creative Juices (Zoom) 10:00 AM

2/14 - Book Group (Zoom) 1:30 PM

2/15 - Noisy Offering Sunday 10:00 AM

2/15 - 2025 Annual Reports Due

2/17 - GMT Meeting (Zoom) 6:00 PM

2/18 - General Maintenance 8:00 AM

2/18 - Newsletter Article Deadline Noon

**2/18 - Ash Wednesday Service (Kirk of
Bonnie Brae Church) 6:30 PM**

**2/19 - Parkview Fine Arts Festival
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

**2/20 - Parkview Fine Arts Festival
10:00 AM - 9:00 PM**

2/20 - Newsletter is published 4:00 PM

**2/21 - Parkview Fine Arts Festival
10:00 AM - 9:00 PM**

2/24 - Lenten Study (Zoom) 12:00 PM

2/25 - General Maintenance 8:00 AM

2/28 - Creative Juices (Zoom) 10:00 AM