



Sunday, August 17, 2025

Join us in person at Riverbend United Church on Sunday, August 17th at 10:30 a.m. or [click here](#) to see our live-streamed service.

Message from Rev. Valerie

August 15, 2025

Dear friends:

For decades, my elder brother in Colorado was a bow hunter, an archer. He never got an elk, but it didn't matter; he went anytime he drew in for the area near our family cabin, which happened seldom in his hunting years.

There was a moment about 20 years ago when he was in his tree stand, his face camouflaged, wearing wild nature's scents to mask his own domesticated one, and a perfect, beautiful bull elk approached.

My brother had gotten up in the wee hours and hiked from our mountain cabin the 3 miles into the high country, climbed up into his make-shift tree stand and sat still except for the small motion required when he was calling in the elk. The Autumn in the high country is cold. He had sat there, mostly still, for 3 hours. He was cold.

He saw the bull elk approaching him. He extended his bow, didn't move a muscle, and he waited. And waited. So patiently.

The moment finally came to release the bow. Everything lined up—the trajectory to the bull without any branches in the way, the exposure to the target zone on the bull's body, the bull standing still. His brain said, "Now!" It was the "kairos" moment: the perfect moment in time to release the arrow.

That is literally the ancient Greek definition of kairos: the critical moment when an archer should release the bow.

The modern definition has evolved to mean "the right time" in anything, not just archery. Christian theologians have adopted the word kairos to refer to the perfect fulfillment of God's time.

Continued page 2

Week 3 of our Mindful Living series this Sunday takes us into God's Time – kairos. "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Join us if you can! Oh, and my brother? Frozen in the tree stand with his bow extended as the perfect elk approached? Kairos came... "Now!" his brain said. But his fingers didn't move. They couldn't! He had sat still, not moving a muscle, waiting patiently for so long that his fingers were literally frozen and he couldn't physically release the bow. Kairos came and went, and he missed it.

Let's not miss God's kairos in our lives! And when we do, we get up and go again. Just like my brother.

Warmly,

Rev. Valerie

IN OUR PRAYERS

We have 3 funerals coming up and we are grateful for our Funeral Reception team coordinated by Diane Trenn for all the work they do to offer such warm hospitality to the families. We could use some help on the Set-Up team, which happens the night before or the morning of a service. Feel free to reach out to Diane or to the Office if you would like to help in this ministry.

- **Barbara Dzenick** is the daughter of RUC members Ed and Lena Dzenick. We will celebrate her life on Thursday, **August 21** at 11:00 am.
- [Peter Juliebo](#) was a founding member of the Church, though he hadn't been able to come for many years. We will celebrate Peter's life on Saturday, **August 23** at 11:00 am.
- [Evelyn Millman](#) was involved in our music program in the early years of the church. We will celebrate her life on Wednesday, **August 27** at 1:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please click here for this week's [Order of Service](#)
- You can find this week's Announcements by clicking [here](#)