



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

June 2020 Newsletter

Estes Park's historic mainline Protestant congregation founded in 1907.

Core Value: The Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies is a Sacred Community formed around Jesus the Christ where we experience God's presence in our lives and service together.

Volume 8, Number 6

Who is Behind those Masks?



... Or, Name the Masked Weeders



On a bright sunny day in May, four individuals spent some time on their hands and knees cleaning up the area around the Columbarium.

They were hard at work pulling weeds, all while breathing through their protective face masks. Who are they?

The first person to correctly identify all of these masked weeders will receive a \$5 gift card to Kind Coffee.

Call the church office, 970-586-4404, and leave a message. The first correct message wins the prize. The winner and the names of the masked weeders will appear in the July Newsletter.

In the photo at right, American Flags were placed on each Veteran's plot. The congregation may not know that our Veterans are honored with flags for Memorial Day. What a lovely tribute!

(Photos by Verlene Thorp)



PCCR Directory

Office Hours: Very limited hours throughout this pandemic—until further notice. However, voicemail phone messages will be checked periodically.

Office Phone: 970-586-4404

Church Website: pccrusa.org

Pastor Michael's blogs: view on Facebook or directly on <https://scotsirishpadre.blog>

Church Staff

Minister: Rev. Michael Moore, pastor@pccrusa.org

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal, music@pccrusa.org

Choir Director and Sexton:
Rich Dixon

Organist: Larry Gillum

Finance: Carolyn Hull, finance@pccrusa.org

Office Coordinator:
Terry Brigham, office@pccrusa.org

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter—whether it be your service in this church, providing a written article or photo, or helping assemble the finished product. We appreciate your input!

The July Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, June 16**. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!

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Recurring Weekly Zoom Schedule

Sunday	<p>Journeys Class at 8:30 am https://zoom.us/j/8457412756 Meeting ID: 845 741 2756 Password: 052945</p>
	<p>Fellowship Hour at 11:00 am <i>Join us as we check in and chat together each Sunday morning.</i> https://zoom.us/j/208642989 Meeting ID: 208 642 989 Password: 80517</p>
	<p>Worship Service at 6:00 pm <i>Join us as Pastor Michael leads us in worship via Zoom from the PCCR Chapel. Use the bulletin sent by email (snail mail to those without access to email) to follow along, or follow along on the slides if you have video capabilities.</i> https://zoom.us/j/106492224 Meeting ID: 106 492 224 Password: 80517</p>
Monday through Thursday	<p>Midday Prayer at Noon <i>Join us for a brief time (10-15 minutes) of scripture readings and prayer.</i> https://zoom.us/j/275108954 Meeting ID: 275 108 954 Password: 80517</p>
Wednesday	<p>Midweek Worship at 6:00 pm <i>Join us for a time of prayer and reflection.</i> https://zoom.us/j/787960956 Meeting ID: 787 960 956 Password: 80517</p>
Thursday	<p>Coffee with the Pastor at 4:30 pm <i>Pastor Michael is available in case anyone wants to chat.</i> https://zoom.us/j/547178866 Meeting ID: 547 178 866 Password: 80517</p>

Call-in Phone Numbers:

1 346 248 7799
1 669 900 6833
1 253 215 8782
1 301 715 8592
1 312 626 6799
1 929 436 2866

Zoom is a video conferencing software app that allows you to virtually interact with others. You **do not** need a computer; anyone can call in on a cell phone or landline to listen in without the visuals. If you know someone who does not have email or who has email, but doesn't check it often, please share this information with them. For additional help with Zoom, contact Denise Moore via email: techpccr@gmail.com

June 2020

From Pastor Michael Moore...

(Note: The following letter was sent to the Congregation on May 11.)

It's hard to believe that we are completing our 8th week as a church without a building! To say the least, it has been a challenge for us all in one way or another. But through these past two months, I have been encouraged by the way our church has remained active and caring. Almost 100 households have attended worship, fellowship, and committee meetings. Even people without internet have been joining by telephone. Our entire congregation has been divided among the Deacons and Elders and they have been reaching out to all of you. If you have not heard from someone, please contact me so I can make sure your contact information is correct.

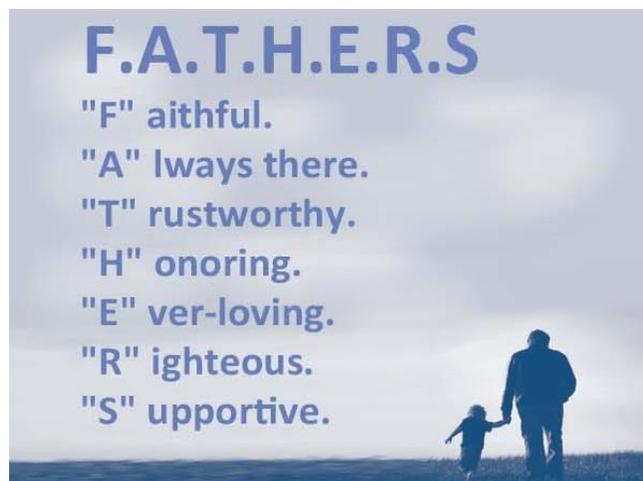
While we have been in isolation longer than Jesus was tempted in the desert, I believe that along with the trials, there have been opportunities for spiritual growth and introspection. I pray you have noticed that too. Some of you may be content waiting out the pandemic in your homes for safety reasons, while others are anxious to return to meeting together physically. I understand everyone's worries and frustrations. The question I hear repeatedly these days is, "When will things be back to normal?" In truth, there will most likely be a new "normal" in the future. This is nothing to worry about as culture continually changes throughout history. Life is not stagnant. When will we be able to meet together in our Church Sanctuary? Honestly, I am not sure.

What I can tell you is that I, along with the leadership of PCCR, take the responsibility of your physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing seriously. The Medical Advisory Team continues to meet bi-weekly to evaluate new information and then gives a report to the Session at their bi-weekly meetings. The Session listens to the advice of our own Medical Advisory Team, the CDC, Gov. Polis, Larimer County Health Department, PC(USA) leadership, Presbytery of Plains and Peaks leadership, me as your spiritual leader, and the Holy Spirit through prayerful discernment. We are facing complicated and complex decisions. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about when we might reopen the building, please feel free to contact me or any Session member. Also, feel free to contact me just to vent, or talk, or pray as we walk through this together.

It is my genuine prayer and hope that each of you feels connected to our church during this time. God has not forgotten nor abandoned us. We are still the church. This is an opportunity for you to shine the light of Christ by encouraging one another. Please know that you remain in my heart and my prayers during this time.

Grace and Peace,

Michael



PENTECOST OFFERING

The Festival of Pentecost comes 50 days after Passover, what we celebrate at this time is God's pouring out of the Holy Spirit so that people of every identity and language can hear a word of welcome into God's household. This is the time of year that PCCR gives to the PC/USA Pentecost Special Offering. This offering provides our congregation the opportunity to support the development of children, youth, and young adults in our community and throughout the country.

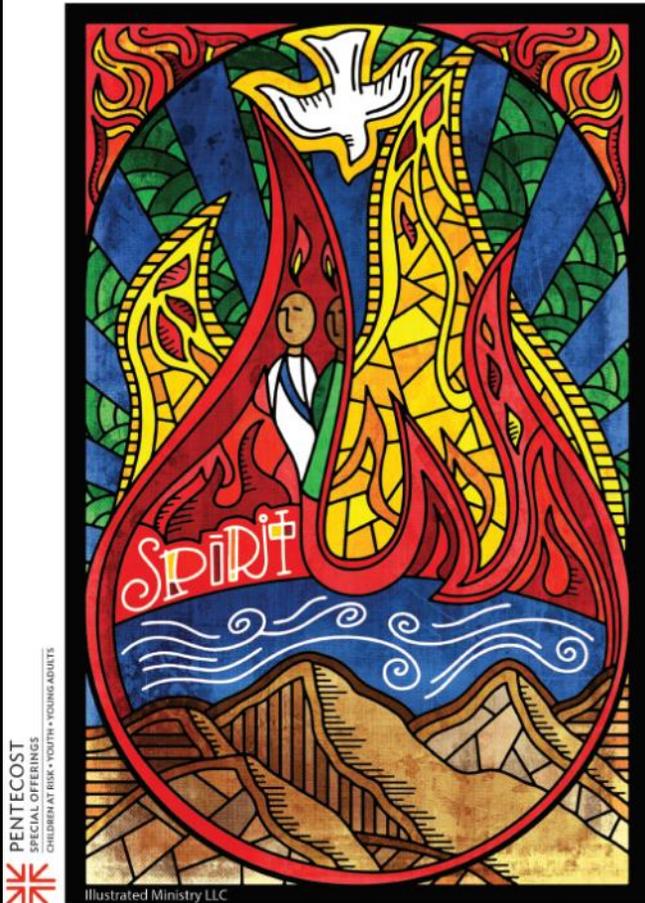
PC/USA has designated 40% of this offering to remain with the donating church. The Mission Committee has designated PCCR's share to Estes Valley Crisis Advocates. EVCA provides an array of free and confidential services to survivors of crime and trauma. A highly trained team of crisis advocates are available 24/7 to members of the Estes Valley. With the Covid 19 restrictions of Stay at Home, and now Safer at Home there has been a terrible rise in domestic abuse. Estes Valley is no exception. EVCA provides a safe house where women and their children can flee to, and programs to help the families to start over again. These are some of the most vulnerable children in our community.

The remaining 60% is sent on to our denomination where it is used to support programs like the Young Adult Volunteer

program, often referred to as YAV. We have a connection to that program ... Chenoa Stock, who currently serves in Peru, is one of the mission coworkers our church currently supports. Lisa and Peter Plaut met Chenoa last year on a vacation trip to Peru. After college, Chenoa became a Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer in Kerala, India. There she taught English at a school run by a church women's group. From India, she accepted another PC(USA) mission assignment, this time in Sri Lanka, then Bolivia, and now in Peru. Without the opportunity afforded by YAV, Chenoa might not have embarked on such an extensive life of mission work. Our contributions to the Pentecost Offering may well give another budding mission coworker a similar start.

Please click here <https://pccrusa.org/contribute/> to contribute to the Pentecost Offering by making your gift through a credit card charge on our church website. See the instructions printed in green on that page.

Please note: Chenoa will join us via Zoom for fellowship on Sunday, June 14.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS
Illustrated Ministry LLC



**Sunday,
May 3
Fellowship
Hour
through
Zoom**

PW Horizons Bible Study



We would love to have you join the next PW Circle meeting on Monday, June 15 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. This will be our final meeting for this Horizons Bible Study titled *Love Carved in Stone*. It provides a fresh look at the Ten Commandments; each month we are surprised at the many new ways of looking at the Ten Commandments that most of us have not thought about before. It is inspiring and challenging at the same time.

This month's lesson is titled, "Words of Love: Don't Fixate on What you Don't Have." The purpose of Lesson 9 is to examine the meaning of "to covet" and to identify the ways greed and predatory desire affect our lives and communities. Susie Manhoff will be the leader of Lesson 9.

To participate click on the link below:

Topic: Presbyterian Women

Time: **June 15, 2020 1:00 PM Mountain Time**

<https://zoom.us/j/93520280634>

Meeting ID: **935 2028 0634**

Password: **80517**

We hope to "see" you there!

Dial in by telephone

1 346 248 7799

1 669 900 6833

1 312 626 6799

1 929 436 2866

1 253 215 8782

1 301 715 8592



Gorgeous view of Longs Peak from our church

Session Highlights ~ May 2020

- ◇ At the May 9, 2020 special meeting, Session members reviewed the recommendations from the Medical Advisory Team, and determined to keep the church building closed for at least another two weeks.
- ◇ At the May 23, 2020 regular meeting, Session members conducted normal business, including:
 - ◇ Heard from Finance Committee that some folks are contributing their stimulus checks, and we are in good shape on the budget. Noted that we now have an insurance policy to prevent any financial fraud.
 - ◇ Received a report from the Columbarium Committee that new ground cover plantings have been done, and a watering system is in place. Flags will be placed for Memorial Day.
 - ◇ Scheduling of the church picnic is on hold; it may be moved to a later date.
 - ◇ Received a report from Building and Grounds that sprinkler heads damaged by the elk have been replaced; lights are now in place at the back of the church; the kitchen wiring has been upgraded; committee is waiting for quotes to upgrade the road into and around the Columbarium.
- ◇ The Medical Advisory Team recommends that the church building remain closed at least for another two weeks. PCUSA is not supporting President Trump's decree that all churches should be open by May 24. There is considerable concern regarding the surge of summer residents and guests coming into town from all over the country.



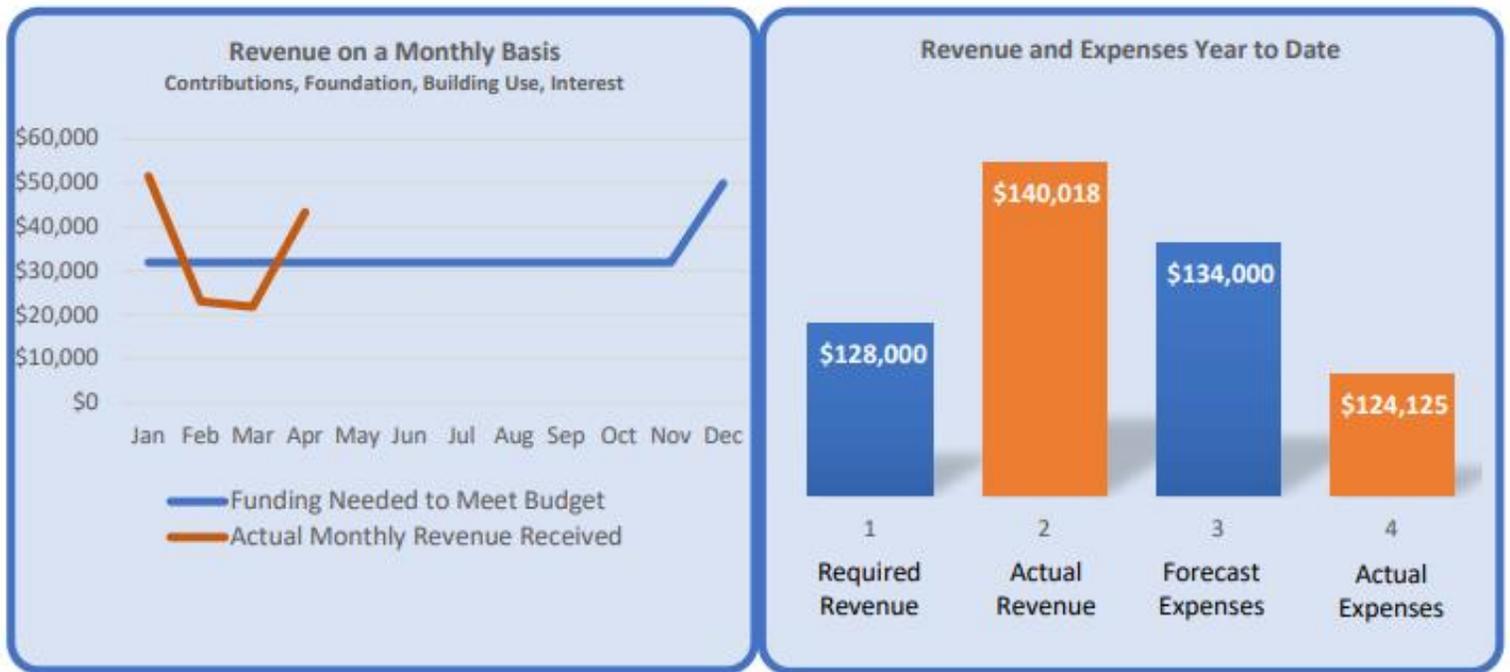
Deacon Highlights ~ May 2020

- ◇ Carolyn Kramer opened the meeting. Having the Deacons meet with ZOOM was certainly different.
- ◇ Judy Schaffer had devotions and read from Romans 15:13.
- ◇ Judy Portman gave a report on the Session. These meetings are also on ZOOM. The church medical team has a difficult job to understand and report the information that affects the church on the possible reopening for services. Pastor Moore added additional information from Session meetings.
- ◇ Each member of the Deacons who had joined the meeting, gave a brief report on their family and how they were doing. They also reported on the members of the congregation that they call each week.
- ◇ Because there are no activities in the church, there were no memorial receptions and no communion services to report.
- ◇ The communion at Good Samaritan will not be held until further notice.
- ◇ Carolyn reported that she had received the communion wafers. These were ordered before the virus shut-down and will be used when communion is again held in the sanctuary.
- ◇ Our next meeting will also be on ZOOM at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 9.

Update your contact information and photo for the church directory!

We will be putting together a new church directory, emailing it to church members, and printing a few copies for those without computers. If you have any changes (phone number, email address, home mailing address, or photo), please let Terry in the church office know before we print the next directory. Thank you!

2020 Financial Picture – Data Through April



This is the financial summary with data through April. The chart on the left shows receipt of funding from all sources (principally contributions from members and visitors). As shown in the chart, considerably higher contributions in April have made up for the lower than average contributions in February and March. This, combined with the large amount of donations that were made in January, resulted in total receipts that are higher than the projection of the average funding needed to operate the church.

The chart above compares the average revenue required on a monthly basis to meet budget with actual receipts (the two bars on the left) and provides a similar comparison of anticipated average monthly expenditures with actual spending. Total revenues received are now \$140,018, which is \$12,018 greater than the amount projected by looking at the average monthly contributions represented by the blue line in the chart to the left. Actual expenses are about \$10,000 lower than the total forecasted for this time in the year.



Notes from the Choir Director and Sexton

I want to thank Bob Gunn, Jeff and Sandy Lindberg, Stan and Kathye Osborne, Patti Dolezal, and Kent Meyer for their ministry of music during this most unusual time.

These people have provided hymns and special music for the Lenten as well as the Sunday evening services for the last eight weeks. It has not been easy, but we continue to help make those services as meaningful as possible. There really is no end in sight to this separation, and even when we do get back, we will be very diligent in making sure that every member of the choir is safe. Just like the rest of the congregation, the average age of the choir is of great concern to all of us. I am planning on something very special for the Sunday night service within the next month or so. We are working on a “Virtual Men’s Choir.” If it works, then we will be adding one more feature to those services.

As far as my Sexton duties are concerned, I get by the church at least three times a week just to make sure everything is in good order. Once we have a confirmed date for opening the church for regular services, I will spend an entire week deep cleaning everything. Obviously it will be impossible to sterilize everything on a continuous basis. Once anyone uses the restroom or touches a doorknob it will no longer be sterile, and I cannot follow you around—nor would you want me to—and wipe everything down behind you. So once we do open back up, it will take everyone’s help in keeping each other as safe as possible. Also, this next week I am going to start working on the grounds mowing, picking up pinecones, and working on the gravel.



~ Rich Dixon

Presbyterian Women Pledges

Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting on June 15, via Zoom, will be our final meeting before summer break. We plan to resume meeting in September, and with all the uncertainty around the Covid-19 Pandemic, we do not know at this time whether we will be meeting in person or via Zoom. Either way, it is uplifting to come together to "nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study," so we hope you will plan to join us in September.

Each year we receive pledges from our members to support important mission activities of Presbyterian Women both locally and worldwide. This year the need will be even greater due to the damage the coronavirus has inflicted upon the economy nationally and worldwide. A sincere thanks to all who have already contributed to the mission work of Presbyterian Women this year.

If you have been meaning to pledge and have been distracted by all the events of the past few months, you can still donate by mailing a check to Presbyterian Women, 1700 Brodie Avenue, Estes Park, CO 80517. If you prefer to donate online click on this link which will take you to the website of Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies: <https://pccrusa.org/contribute/contribute-to-the-church/>. **There are directions on this webpage about donating a one-time gift. You first need to complete** the credit card form and click on submit. There is a link under the Submit button titled: "Designating Where Your Contribution Is to Go." This is where you indicate that your donation is to be directed to the PW pledge. Your contribution will bring hope to the many people who are feeling hopeless and helpless.



Pandemic by Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.



Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.