



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

## May 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 5

### Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

While birthdays are very exciting and fun for children, as the years pass, we are not as likely to celebrate our birthdays with such zeal. Presbyterian Women have a special offering that began with a challenge to celebrate our birthdays in a new and joy-filled way, sharing our gifts with those in need. In 1922, Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged each member of the Women's Auxiliary of the PCUS to give a penny for each year of her life as a birthday gift to Miss Dowd's school for Girls in Japan. Continuing this tradition, each year Presbyterian Women have an Annual Birthday offering which has funded more than 200 mission projects that improve the lives of women and children around the world. This year's Birthday Offering is based on Psalm 71:14 – "But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more." Hope is something we all need more of during this challenging time. Please consider participating in the Birthday Offering that will provide hope to the following four mission projects.

**The Center for Social Assistance to the Disabled, Family and Children** – Their plan is to create a Christian model of housing and community in Russia for the disadvantaged that will provide suitable living conditions and an environment in which the residents can realize their rights to freedom of religion and work.

**GAP Ministries of Augusta, Georgia** – This 40 years of ministry hopes to renovate the second floor of their historic church building so they can address needs such as a Saturday service for the working poor, expanded health assistance, and meeting spaces for partner ministries.

**Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center in Payson, Arizona** - This childcare and prekindergarten center, established in 1979, will use the grant to help build a modern facility that will increase the number of children served and provide infant care, which is currently unavailable.

**Liberty Community Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota** – The Northside Healing Space is part of the Liberty Community church, which is the first and only African American-led Presbyterian congregation in Minnesota. They need to renovate their building to expand services such as supportive housing, workforce development, access to healthy food, K-12 initiatives, and care for survivors of trauma and commercial sexual exploitation.

With the current pandemic, the needs of these groups will likely be even greater than before. May we all join together to provide hope to these communities in need. **To Donate to the Birthday Offering** please 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 to a special offering. 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 Birthday Offering.

May you find it in your heart to contribute so these groups will be lifted up by your gift of caring and generosity. And in all things, may we seek hope continually and praise God more and more.

## 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](http://pccrusa.org)

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

### Church Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Michael Moore, [pastor@pccrusa.org](mailto:pastor@pccrusa.org)

**Handbell Director:** Patti Dolezal, [music@pccrusa.org](mailto:music@pccrusa.org)

**Choir Director and Sexton:**  
Rich Dixon

**Organist:** Larry Gillum

**Finance:** Carolyn Hull, [finance@pccrusa.org](mailto:finance@pccrusa.org)

**Office Coordinator:**  
Terry Brigham, [office@pccrusa.org](mailto: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 May Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, May 19**. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org) Thanks!

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## Recurring Weekly Zoom Schedule

Sunday	<b>Journeys Class at 8:30 am</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/8457412756">https://zoom.us/j/8457412756</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 845 741 2756 <b>Password:</b> 052945
	<b>Fellowship Hour at 11:00 am</b> <i>Join us as we check in and chat together each Sunday morning.</i> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/208642989">https://zoom.us/j/208642989</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 208 642 989 <b>Password:</b> 80517
	<b>Worship Service at 6:00 pm</b> <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> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/106492224">https://zoom.us/j/106492224</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 106 492 224 <b>Password:</b> 80517
Monday through Thursday	<b>Midday Prayer at Noon</b> <i>Join us for a brief time (10-15 minutes) of scripture readings and prayer.</i> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/275108954">https://zoom.us/j/275108954</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 275 108 954 <b>Password:</b> 80517
Wednesday	<b>Midweek Worship at 6:00 pm</b> <i>Join us for a time of prayer and reflection.</i> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/787960956">https://zoom.us/j/787960956</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 787 960 956 <b>Password:</b> 80517
Thursday	<b>Social Hour at 4:30 pm</b> <i>Grab your beverage of choice and join as we check in with each other and chat.</i> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/547178866">https://zoom.us/j/547178866</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 547 178 866 <b>Password:</b> 80517

### 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](mailto:techpccr@gmail.com)

May 2020

## From Pastor Michael Moore...

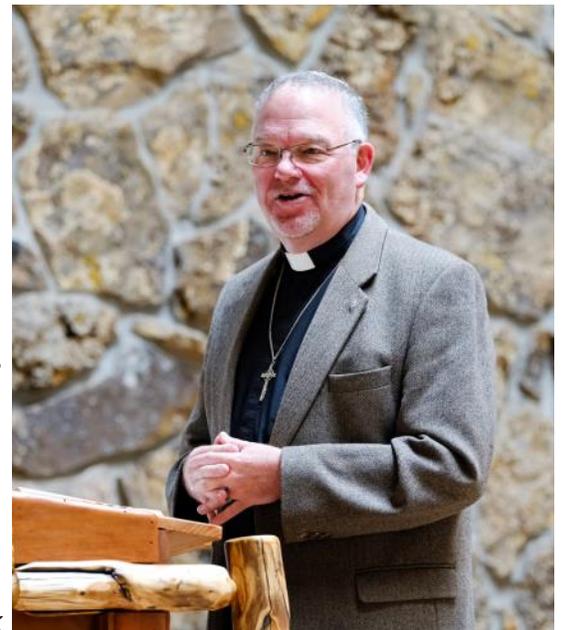
*Well, it is nearly May as I sit down to write this message. To say that the past seven weeks has been unusual would be a massive understatement. I am proud of the way in which our congregation and leadership have continued to be the church outside of the building through this time. While the church building is closed, the church as the body of Christ is open and doing the Lord's work in new ways.*

*A question that does come up from time to time is how long will we be meeting virtually. The Session, along with the Medical Advisory Team (Mark Richards, Sandy Moren Lindberg, John Cooper, Peter Plaut, Randy Brigham, and Sherry Unruh) meets every two weeks to evaluate our status. While all of us look forward to the day when we can be back in the building we honestly don't know when that will happen. The pandemic response is a marathon, not a sprint. As we continue this journey together I am encouraged by the number of folks who are attending worship and other activities we have on-line or over the phone. We are, as a community of faith, in this together and for that I am very thankful.*

*As we enter this new month, may these words from Jesus bring us comfort: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27) And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Mathew 28:20)*

*Grace and Peace,*

*Michael*

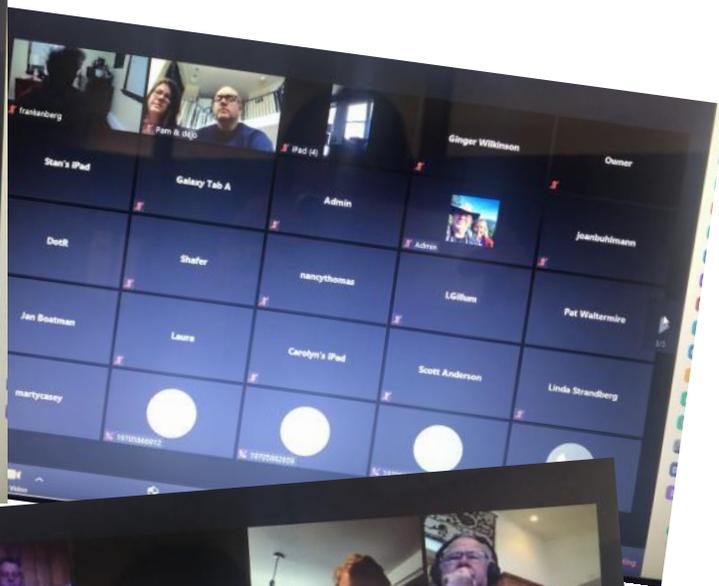
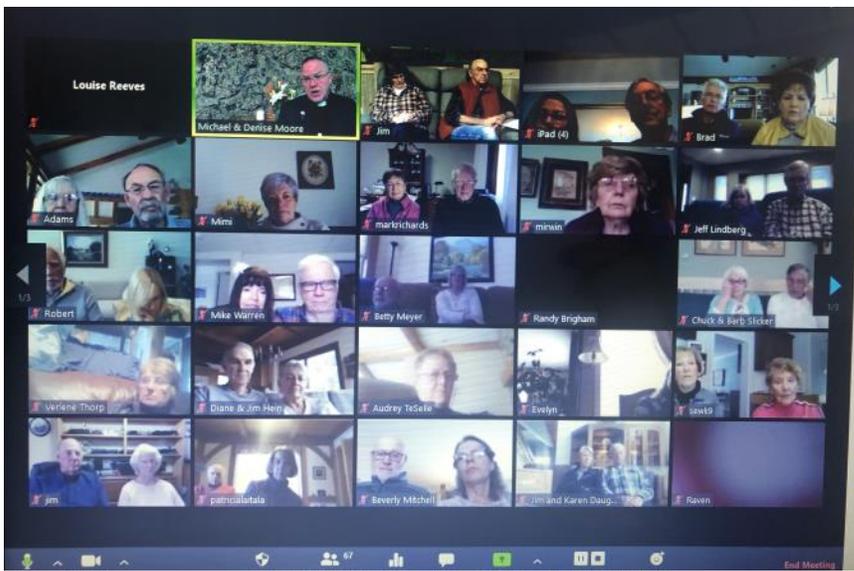


## Music Notes For May 2020

As I have said in the past, the church choir is more than just a group that likes to sing. We are a family. So this separation has taken its toll on each of us. It has also been a very sad time for members of our music family, because both Brenda Gillum and Stan Osborne have lost family members to Covid 19, and nothing brings this disease and its effects home more than when it touches you personally.

I have been in contact with our choir members during this time and all seem to be doing well. Everyone is in everyone's prayers. At this time we are unsure when we will be back in the sanctuary for worship. When that time comes, the choir looks forward to singing in worship. We all are very appreciative for the support that this congregation has given over the years.

*Rich Dixon, Sanctuary Choir Director*



## Easter ~ April 12, 2020

Images from our first virtual Easter Sunday worship service.

Congregation members and friends joined the service through the Zoom videoconferencing software app.

In spite of the separation and distancing from one another due to the restrictions caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the Easter message was proclaimed with joy.

In these difficult times, the **Finance Committee** has great news. First and foremost, your contributions to the church have remained very strong and ahead of budget through March. Our church is very important to all of us and your commitments during these uncertain times certainly reflect the church as your priority.

Recently, your Finance Committee approved an application for Payroll Protection Program (PPP) from the Federal government that allows a loan to keep our staff on the payroll during the stay at home periods. This covers payroll, pension, and other related expenses. Your session approved this application at its last meeting. The requested amount is approximately \$50,000. Earlier this week, we received notice that the request was funded. Thanks to Carolyn Hull, your financial secretary, for her immediate action on this request since, as of today, the program has run out of money. As you recall, our projected deficit for 2020 is approximately \$50,000 so if the revenue and expenses continue on budget for the rest of the year, we expect to finish with a break even or a small profit. An attractive feature of this loan is 100% of the payroll protection program can be forgiven, based on an 8-week period of total payroll costs and utilities.

Although the above is great news, the best news is that, to the best of my knowledge, all of our members are safe and healthy. This quarantine is inconvenient but, after all, how tough can it be; Long's Peak, the elk, and our friends are still here, and when this is over, they will still be here. We are truly blessed.

*Bob Holcomb, Finance Committee Chairperson*

## A Moment for Mission

The Mission and Outreach Committee has been busy while staying at home.

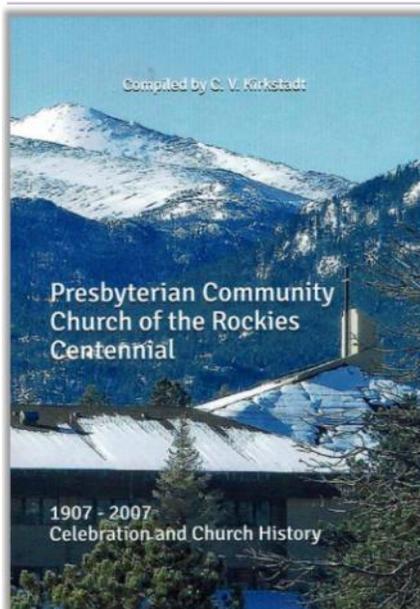
**One Great Hour of Sharing:** This denomination-wide offering is collected at Easter. By mid-March our church had gone virtual and so we mounted our campaign online. PC(USA) was already using their reserve funds to meet needs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our congregation donated \$1,025 toward this need, which was up from last year's One Great Hour of Sharing. Nothing could have been more timely.

The **Mission and Outreach Committee** met virtually this month. Our mission coworkers in Peru and Malawi are well, and their letters are available on the website. Chenoa Stock and her family are under the same sort of stay-at-home order in Lima as we are here, but she continues her work planning for future mission trips to Peru. We had scheduled a visit from **Jeremy Garbat-Welch**, who works in Malawi, during a trip that would bring him to the United States. He made it to this country before international travel was shut down, but he is on the East Coast and has been compelled to cancel his travels within the U.S. We have tentatively planned a Zoom event where we can hear from him virtually in lieu of the in-person event we had scheduled for May. We have not worked out details of this visit. Watch for updates.

The committee has acted to assist with help for local and international needs. **Marion Medical Mission**, well known to this church, is distributing maize to the people of Malawi who are on the brink of starvation caused by heavy rains and prolonged flooding. We voted to send \$500 for this need from the **Mission Committee Emergency Fund**. We are fortunate to have Carol Nussbaumer to help us; she knows safe and reliable ways to wire money to Malawi.

We also voted to contribute \$1,000 from a fund that had been given to the church by an anonymous donor, to the **Estes Park Hospital Foundation**. The donation will be used to help equip two operating rooms and four patient rooms in the medical/surgical unit with a ventilation system to pull air out of those rooms. These negative pressure rooms prevent air from the room of an infected person from escaping out into the building and infecting others.

Another of our major special offerings, the **Pentecost offering**, is coming up. This offering is used to benefit children at risk, youth, and young adults. Forty percent of what we collect at PCCR stays with our church to use locally. More details to come.



### You don't want to miss this....

This informative book offers a glimpse of church life throughout 100 years of history of our Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies in Estes Park.

Compiled by our church librarian, Carol Kirkstadt, with personal contributions from a number of other individuals, you will find it to be a wonderful historical resource of current and past church members, as well as the community.

**You can order the book on Amazon and have it delivered directly to your home. Copies are also available at Barnes & Noble.**

### Covid-19

*I don't have the virus  
I'm insulated by walls  
(Or out in the fresh air)  
The Covid-19 virus  
Threatens with fear  
Fetters our world  
Extracts the very spirit from us  
What do we know?  
Almost nothing  
Only statistics like  
"Deaths were at 100  
But have mounted to 200"  
I will stay 6 feet from you  
Shake the germs off my fingertips  
And keep my promise to  
Love the World  
For better or for worse  
In sickness and in health!*

~ Pam Ritzman

## Session Highlights ~ March and April 2020

During March and April your Session has been meeting every two weeks via Zoom conferencing. (We do this at 2 p.m. on Saturdays, so that we can be sure everyone has changed by then from their p.j.'s into real clothing!!) By holding more frequent meetings, Session members are able to keep closer tabs on our members and continue to assess how the services of PCCR can best be provided during this strange time. Meeting with the Session are medical advisors Drs. John Cooper and Mark Richards, and Sandy Lindberg, RN, FCN. Here is a compilation of discussions and actions taken by Session on March 14, 28, and April 11.

- ◇ Approved setting up a calling tree for Deacons and Elders to use for staying in touch with the congregation.
- ◇ Planned for sermons and other weekly services to be provided via Zoom.
- ◇ Approved compensating our employees as usual. Even though the building is closed, staff members are at the church on a rotating basis, taking care of all necessary tasks.
- ◇ Approved canceling all in-person worship services, committee meetings and other activities, as well as outside groups using the building for an undetermined amount of time.
- ◇ Noted that the Zoom worship services have attracted over 80 households. The Wednesday evening Worship time has also been very good.
- ◇ Directed that the church website be updated more frequently in order to provide members with the latest information ([pccrusa.org](http://pccrusa.org)).
- ◇ Addressed the question of when can we relax some of the restrictions. The medical advisory team indicated it would not be safe until a large number of people have had the virus and recovered. They will have established an immunity. Having a vaccine will also be very important, but that may not be until next year. They recommend that we continue to wear masks and gloves at the grocery store.
- ◇ Approved having PCCR apply for a Small Business Administration loan in the amount of \$49,585. Only 5% of that amount is required to be repaid. The money will be used for payroll costs and Pastor Michael's housing allowance.



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## Deacon Highlights ~ April 2020

The Deacons will meet via Zoom on April 28 for a check-in. They will meet via Zoom for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm.

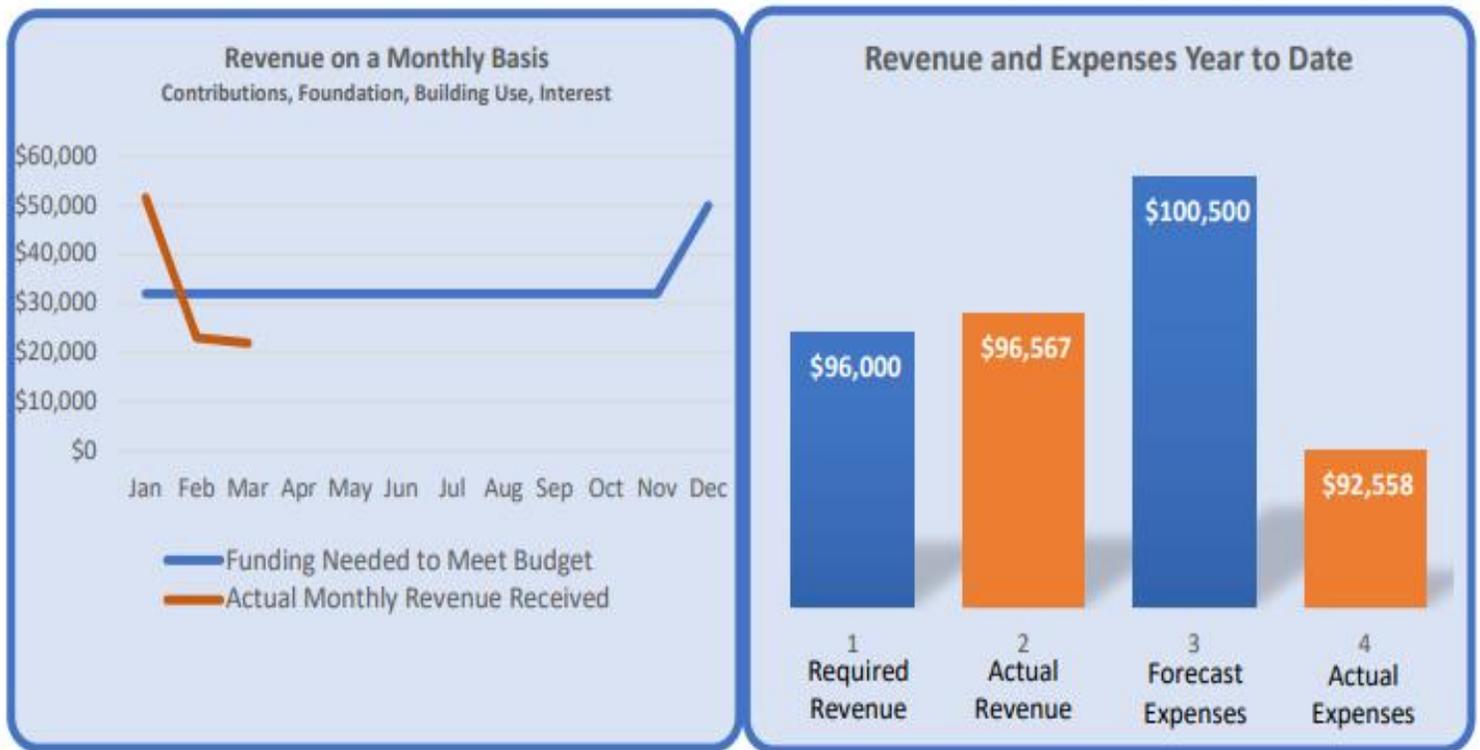


### Shepherd Connection

In an effort to stay connected during this time of social distancing and isolation, our church Elders and Deacons have been calling on members of the congregation. You may receive a phone call, an email, or a handwritten card in the mail. It is important that we stay in touch.

If you have not heard from anyone, please call or email the church office (970-586-4404, [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org)). Perhaps we do not have correct contact information.

## 2020 Financial Picture – Data Through March



This is the financial summary with data through March. The chart on the left shows the church's receipt of funding from all sources (contributions from members and visitors, donations from the PCCR Foundation, charges for use of church facilities by outside organizations, and investment income). The current restrictions on activities due to the Covid-19 virus are likely the main reason for the drop in contributions to support the church. Hopefully, this will be temporary. Despite this, the higher-than-expected contributions in January have balanced out the lower figures for February and March, such that total revenues for the first quarter of the year are right on target for the 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. As noted in the description and the graph on the left, total revenues for the first quarter come to exactly what is required for this point in the year - \$96,567 in actual contributions versus \$96,000 required. Additionally, actual expenses through March are lower than the contributions as well as lower than the total forecasted for what the church would spend by this point.

### PW Horizon Bible Study

Since Presbyterian Women are unable to meet in person for the Horizons Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone*, they have started meeting via Zoom. Our next meeting will be **Monday, May 18 at 1:00 p.m.** and we will be discussing Lesson 8 "Words of Love: Speak Truthfully" which begins on Page 89 of the study booklet. This has been a very interesting study and we would love to have you join us. To participate click on the link below.

Topic: Presbyterian Women

Time: **Monday, May 18, 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

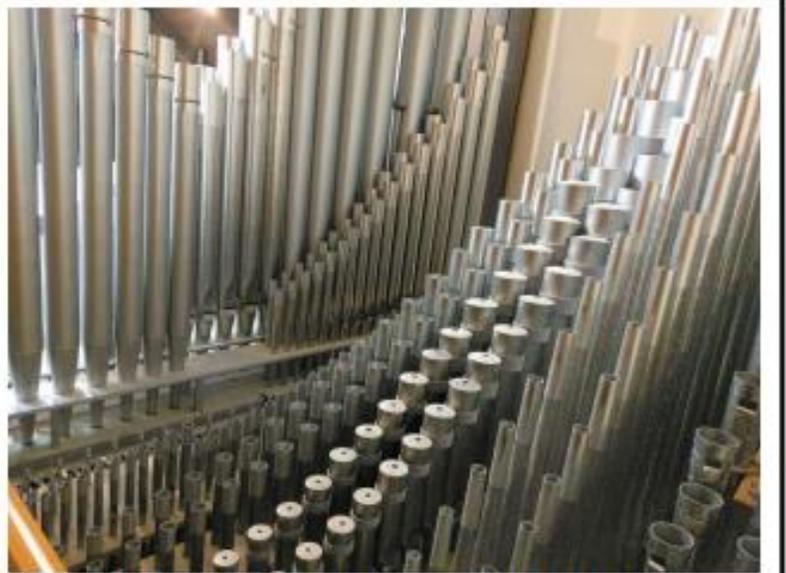
1 253 215 8782

1 301 715 8592

## From the Organist

Our organ has been patient since the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, rusting in silence with only one minor exception. I did return one morning to fire up its blowers, wind reservoirs, pipe valves, its 9 computers, and to blow dust and moths from lifeless pipes to record for virtual services.

What a noble instrument. Please allow me to share just a few tidbits of its colorful history.\* Did you know that the concept of the organ appears to have been created in 246 BC by Ctesibius of Alexandria, Egypt? He invented a mechanical flute-playing instrument with wind pressure regulated by water pressure called a *hydraulis*. The first reference to hydraulis-playing was in 90 BC. It was introduced to Rome, and it is said that Nero fiddled while Rome burned. Actually, this can't be true, for the violin hadn't been invented yet. However, Nero is said to have played the *hydraulis* (perhaps even while Rome burned).



A few of the 1,278 pipes inside our organ that you cannot see from your pew.

The *hydraulis* spread throughout the Mediterranean region and was played at banquets, games, and circuses. In 757, Byzantine Emperor Constantius sent an organ as a peace offering to Pepin the Short, King of the Franks. Thereafter, a Venetian monk was requested to teach organ building to students. The spark was lit and the organ spread throughout Europe, making its way into churches around 900 AD. By the 1400s, organs were well established in monastic churches and cathedrals throughout Europe.

Until about 1500, organs played all groups of pipes simultaneously. Mechanisms were finally developed so that some pipe sets could be "stopped" and silenced, meaning the air could be blocked for some pipe ranks, permitting just those desired to be in use. This allowed the organist to select specific pipe ranks to be played alone, providing variations in dynamics, pitch, and color. Sets of pipes became known as "stops." When the air "stopper" was open under one pipe rank, those pipes could be played while others were stopped and quiet.

Between 1510 and 1520, a type of organ appeared in the upper Rhineland which incorporated virtually all features found in present-day organs, minus electrified controls, centrifugal blowers, and computers. It would be many years before organists could practice and play services without at least one able-bodied person pumping air for the instrument by foot treadles or hand levers. In 1524, the first music school in Mexico was established by Spanish missionaries. Organ building was among the subjects taught.

An inventory of the estate of King Henry VIII, taken in 1547, revealed that not only did he have 6 wives during his lifetime, but dozens of chamber organs, regals, and claviorgana (an instrument that used strings and pipes). In 1599, Queen Elizabeth I of England, seeking trade favors, sent a self-playing organ as a gift to the Sultan of Turkey. During Elizabeth's reign, she encouraged notable composers and keyboard music flourished.

The organ became very strong in English churches of the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries and spread across the ocean to the colonies. In 1759, Thomas Johnston, a native of Boston, built an organ for the Old North Church where Paul Revere was the sexton. The church was soon to be famous as a result of Revere's ride. The organ was enlarged many times, and recently a new organ has been installed in the beautiful original Johnston case, now restored. An organ designed by the official organ builder to King George III was given to the daughter of George Washington's physician who played the instrument for the Father of our Country. The name J.S. Bach became synonymous with the development of the organ. Renowned composer Haydn wrote a set of pieces in 1772 for a mechanical organ located in a clock. Mozart, Beethoven, and other composers were organists.

Organs from several countries were featured in the 1851 Great Exhibition in London's Crystal Palace. A steam-powered organ, called the *calliope*, was introduced in 1855. On and on it goes, likely making the organ the world's oldest instrument. Today the marvels of electricity make the instrument a little easier to control, but in our specific PCCR organ, we still must maneuver 3 manual keyboards, 1 pedal keyboard, a total of 230 playing keys for hands and feet, 73 stops, 15 couplers, and 255 memory levels with 88 sequencer steps for each memory level. What a noble instrument. Mozart called the organ, "The King of Instruments."

Larry

\* Detailed information from "Curious Facts from the Organ's History," Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies.