



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

## July 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 7

### What Comes Next?

**As we know, health reasons have called our pastor to service at a lower altitude, and he will depart our church effective the end of August. See the [Letter to Congregation from Pastor Michael – June 21, 2020](#) where he submitted his resignation.**

With sadness at the pending loss to our church, but also with joy concerning the opportunities this presents for Michael and Denise's future, the Session has accepted the resignation. This, however, is only the first step for our church. Dissolution of the pastoral relationship requires consideration and a vote by the congregation. Accordingly, the Session will present the resignation for discussion and vote at a congregational meeting, which during the COVID-19 situation will take place electronically. The date and details for the meeting and voting will be established by Session, with coordination with the Presbytery, at Session's upcoming July 6, 2020 meeting. Action to dissolve the pastoral relationship is taken by the Presbytery after the congregational vote.

**The Session will work with our Presbytery to secure temporary pastoral services and to begin the search process for a new permanent pastor. The church is planning a departure get-together for Sunday, Aug. 2.**

The normal process to find a new pastor includes a transition period with an interim pastor, election of a pastor nominating committee, and approximately a year of work to identify candidates and to present a recommendation to the congregation. A schematic of the sequence is available [here](#). These are decidedly not normal times, and the session will work with the Presbytery to tailor the process to today's environment.



Well, folks...It's been a long time since you have heard from Membership and Hospitality, but here we are now hoping to get to see you all *very* soon. First the *bad* news... (*see the last page for good news*)

Our Annual All-Church Picnic has been canceled for this summer. My mother used to say, "Oh, Sherry. This, too, shall pass." And since my mom was almost always right, I have assumed that this virus will find its way out of our lives, and by this time next summer we'll be able to gather together all we want. So, you can mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 11, 2021**. We'll meet you at the Marina Pavilion for a fabulous All-Church Picnic then!

~ Sherry Unruh

## 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 August Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, July 21**. 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

**Note:** Beginning in July, there will no longer be Wednesday Midweek Services or Thursday “Coffee with the Pastor” Zoom meetings.

More information about what is going on at the church, including links to the various meetings that are being held via Zoom, can be found on our website: [pccrusa.org](http://pccrusa.org). The website is updated frequently with items such as the bulletin for the Sunday worship service and news of importance to the congregation. Shortly, we will have a page on the website to track plans and progress in finding temporary pastoral services and the search for a new permanent pastor.

### 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)

July 2020

## From Pastor Michael Moore...

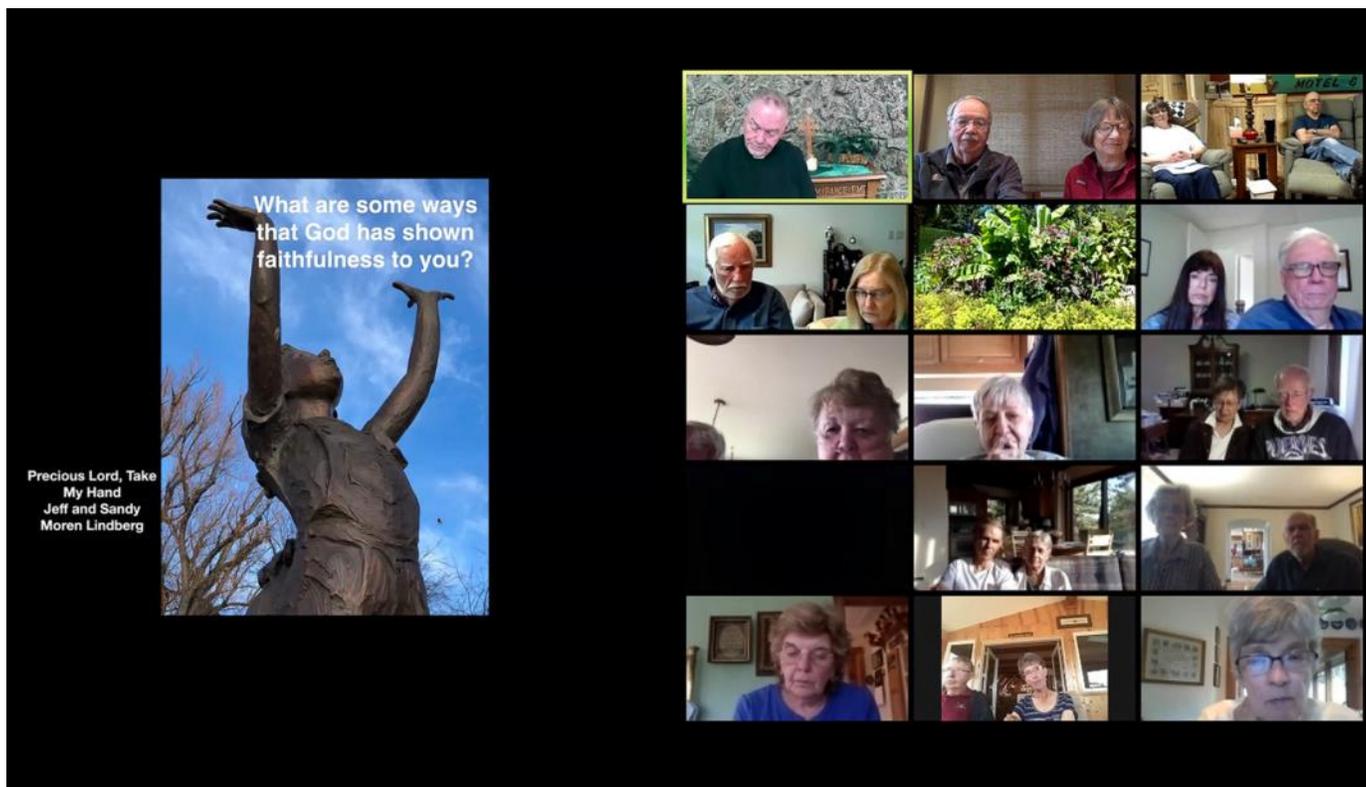
*The past couple of weeks have been challenging. Personally, it has been difficult for Denise and for me to make the decision to leave PCCR at the end of August. Even though it is for health reasons, it still doesn't make it easy. We have loved being a part of the PCCR and Estes Park family these past five years.*

*As we begin the month of July in a few days, we are also about to enter the fourth month of virtual meetings and worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am so proud of the way you have been open to new ideas and ways of being the church outside of the building. I am also proud of the way our Session and ad hoc Medical Advisory Team (Mark Richards, John Cooper, Sandy Moren Lindberg, Randy Brigham, Peter Plaut, and Sherry Unruh) have worked together to keep our PCCR family safe. On the horizon we will be seeing opportunities for outdoor social activities using the parking lot and patio. The criteria are being worked out but imagine a tailgate opportunity while maintaining proper physical distancing for fellowship.*

*Just as the Spirit has been guiding us through these challenging times (and long before March of 2020), I am confident that PCCR will continue to be led by the Spirit. PCCR will continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in new and wonderful ways.*

*Grace and Peace,*

*Michael*



Zoom worship service

## Moments for Mission

### Blankets in Summer

Did you kick the blanket off last night because you were too warm? Can you imagine doing that in December? It is now winter in Malawi Africa and again we have had a plea to help buy blankets for those who do not have them. Mr. Leman Kayira (his first name is pronounced "lemon") has written recently asking for that help. To quote his letter in part: "During this time of the year, it



becomes very cold and unbearable for the vulnerable people (the elderly, the sick, widows, the physically challenged, children and orphans). While the rich and well to do cover and warm themselves with very expensive blankets and duvets, there are those vulnerable people who spend sleepless nights. This is because they cannot find money to buy a blanket. This is due to the dire poverty in the households....You and others in your church, town and villages are the faithful allies in the fulfillment of this work...you are able to supply the support others value and depend on. May God bless and protect all those who kindly donate in kind towards blanket fund. If the funding donated could exceed the appealed amount, then the extra would be used to buy buckets and soap for the vulnerable. ... Galatians Chapter 6 v 9-10 'let us not become weary in doing well, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do well to all people...."

Mr. Kayira and his organization are asking for 1,100,000 Malawi kwacha to buy 200 blankets at 5,500 kwacha each. DON'T FAINT! In U.S. dollars, this is \$1,500 total or \$7.50 per blanket. The extra funds, if any, will be used for buckets and soap as part of the drive toward cleanliness to fight off the COVID-19 virus. Malawi does have some outbreaks of COVID-19; the number is small, but unfortunately continues to grow. A bucket with a tap for hand washing costs 5000 Malawi kwacha, or \$6.75. It is anticipated that these would be usable for several years in a family home. Soap tablets cost 15 cents each. And yes, that amount is out of reach for many rural Malawians. Leman wants to buy 50 cartons of soap with 30 tablets in each one for a total cost of about \$205. A "tablet" of soap is about the size of a bar of Dial here in the States but doesn't last as long. Blankets, buckets and soap are all sourced in Malawi and will be purchased locally, so we are also helping support the local economy. Two for one! All schools in the country have been closed since early April. A "stay at home" procedure is not possible as people need to go out for food every day – no refrigeration except in the very big cities. The part of Malawi where Mr. Kayira works was also hit earlier this year by bad flooding that destroyed much of the maize and rice crops which are the primary food sources and also badly damaged a number of shallow wells, forcing people to again use the filthy open water sources.



Identification of beneficiaries and distribution will be done together with the local Pastors Fraternal in the area. If you are able to buy a blanket and perhaps add a couple of dollars for a bucket and a bar of soap, the gratitude of these Malawians will be immeasurable! Any donations should be sent to the church office with a memo "blanket fund". To contribute by credit card, click here: <https://pccrusa.org/contribute/> and follow the steps noted in green type. If you have questions about this project, please call or e-mail Carol Nussbaumer, 586-2437, [carol@nussbaumers.net](mailto:carol@nussbaumers.net)



**Chenoa Stock, mission coworker in Peru,** visited with us at our Zoom fellowship on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Chenoa is one of the mission coworkers supported in part by our church. She and her husband, José, along with their two-year-old son, Leandro, moved to Lima from La Paz, Bolivia in February 2019. Chenoa serves with the Joining Hands Network organization that works to improve the quality of life of economically disadvantaged sectors of Peru. Prior to arrival of the COVID-19 virus, she focused on developing partnerships between US and Peruvian churches and arranged for delegations from US churches to visit Peru.

Chenoa shared her background in mission work, which she undertook after college, with work in Sri Lanka, India, Bolivia and now Peru. José is a Bolivian citizen and has applied for a US green card, which will eventually allow him to be employed by PC(USA). Pending that, he serves as a volunteer mission coworker. His green card application has progressed but is currently stalled by the virus lockdown in Peru.

Chenoa described their stay at home order as being much more restrictive than what we experience here. Lima is normally a crowded and busy city of 11 million people. Today there are few vehicles on the streets. Chenoa and her son have not left the apartment, even to venture into the hallways, since the lockdown began in mid-March. José is the only one who goes out, and even his shopping trips occur only every other week. Her visit with us through the Zoom fellowship session gave a personal touch to what she had written in a recent letter to Presbyterian churches:

But how many voices have been lost during this time of COVID-19? In Peru, the inequality has been exacerbated throughout the months of this pandemic. While our middle-class neighborhood grocery stores check temperatures and require handwashing before entering, I am almost sure this type of control and care is not found on the outskirts of the city or in rural areas of the country. While many citizens have received government stimulus payments to assure economic security, many do not have access to these social safety net programs. While some citizens are able to work from home and protect themselves and their families from this immense health risk, many are part of the massive informal sector of Peru and have either lost their jobs due to the strict measures, or are forced to work illegally, despite the measures and the risks.

Due to unemployment, experienced by about one-third of the population, there has been a reverse mass migration from the city to the rural provinces in hopes of finding work in the agricultural sector. Many are escaping their life of living in the tight quarters of informal urban settlements. Families are returning to life on the land, where the harvest has begun, and the government quarantine measures are not so strictly enforced. Sadly, it is here that the virus could soon start to spread rapidly.

More about Chenoa can be found on her page on the Presbyterian World Mission website:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/chenoa-stock/>

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## Estes Park Nonprofit and Covid-19

Are you quarantined at home wondering what is happening to care for our community during Covid-19? One of the local organizations that is focusing on this is the Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center (EPNRC), whose offices are on the lower level of our church. They provide tools that support, connect, and inspire our community nonprofits. In response to Covid-19, EPNRC established the Nonprofit Relief Fund. This will be used in Estes Park only. This fund will support any operational need of a local nonprofit that contributes to the execution of an essential service or basic need in our community. It keeps the donated money local.

Examples of use from this fund in recent weeks include: an added phone line to accommodate the increased intake needs of local service providers; fresh foods for the Food Support Network; resources that allow students to continue remote learning; support for nonprofit organizations for rent, utilities and equipment maintenance; and technology that supports mobile crisis responders.

As the pandemic continues, the needs are going to become more pressing. Your mission committee is donating \$2,000 from the emergency fund in our budget designated for local use. To learn more about the Nonprofit Resource Center and to support their work, click here: <https://www.epnonprofit.org/#/>.

## Session Highlights ~ June 2020

Session met via Zoom on June 6 and 21 to review the status of PCCR's closing the building and to conduct essential business.

The Medical Advisory team (Drs. John Cooper and Mark Richards and RN Sandy Lindberg, Sherry Unruh, Peter Plaut, and Randy Brigham) recommend that we begin exploring ways that in-person gatherings might take place. The Membership and Hospitality committee will be developing some activities that might work for this initial phase of reopening. With the nice summer weather it will be easier to plan outdoor events, which would help us observe social distancing. All due considerations will be made for ensuring the safety of everyone. When the building is open again for worship services, the Zoom worship service will be continued for those who prefer not to attend the in-person service. This move to begin reopening the church building will be made in incremental steps, and may be halted if reports of the virus spreading would indicate that to be necessary.

At the June 21 meeting, Session received a letter of resignation from Pastor Michael Moore. For health reasons, it is necessary for him to move to a lower altitude. He has accepted a position in Carrollton, GA, effective September 1, 2020. He has sent a letter to members of PCCR, explaining his situation and expressing his sadness that this move must be made. Processes are in place for the selection of an interim pastor, and for a search committee to be formed to select a new minister.



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## Deacon Highlights ~ June 2020

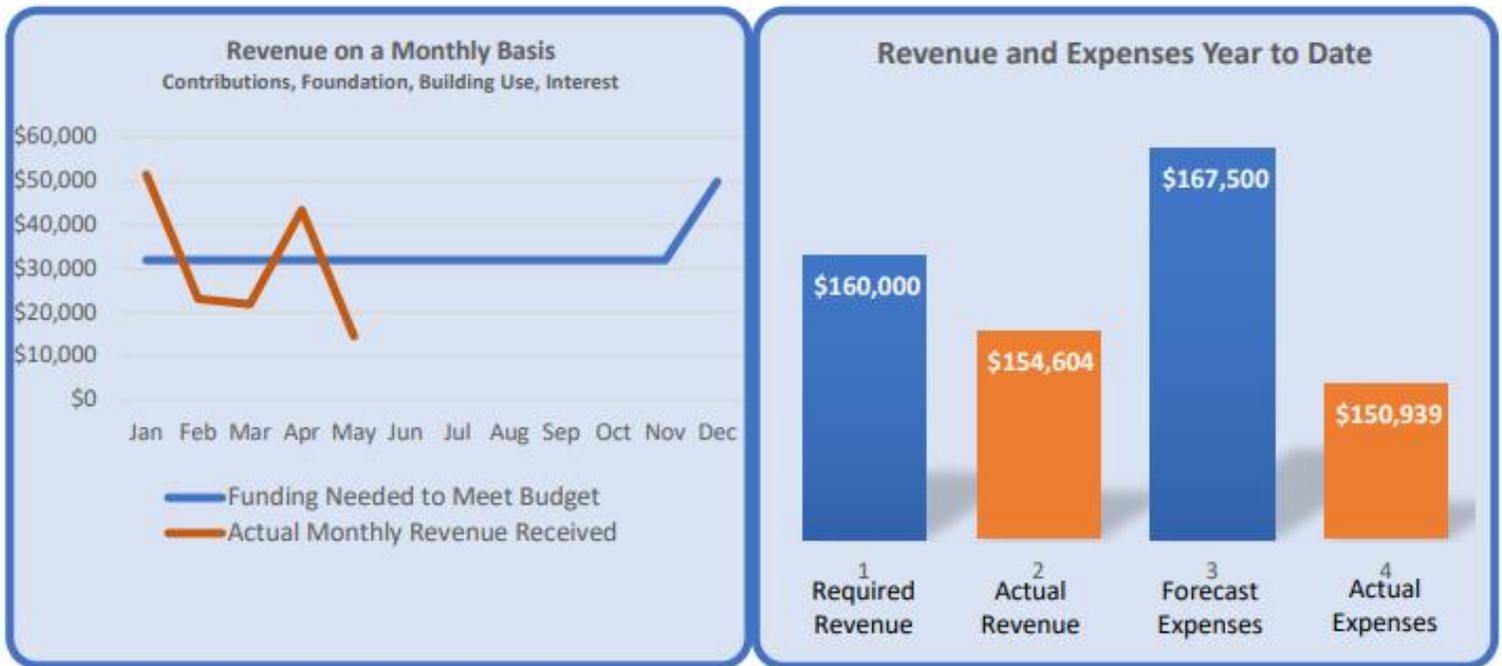
- ◇ Carolyn Kramer, co-moderator, called the meeting to order, but since we did not have a quorum, we could not confirm any business.
- ◇ The minutes from the May meeting could not be approved.
- ◇ Judy Portman outlined some of the items from the meeting of the session that she attended. Most of the meeting was a discussion of the Covid-19 protocols for the church and what requirements would have to be met before the church could open for on-site worship.
- ◇ There was no finance report.
- ◇ Under the joys and concerns, it was discussed that there are two additional people who should receive cards in addition to those on the prayer list.
- ◇ The Sunshine Committee was told of one death of a church member but no meals were sent. A prayer quilt and a card were sent to the family by Katha Schweitzer from the Deacons.
- ◇ Because we cannot have any memorial receptions and do not serve communion just now, there were no reports.
- ◇ There was no old business.
- ◇ Under new business there was a discussion about the phone calls that the Deacons and the Elders are making to members. Pastor Michael and Denise have sent out a list of questions that could be conversation starters.
- ◇ The next meeting will be presumably by ZOOM on July 14 at 7:00 pm. Deacons need to let Carolyn know if they are unable to attend.



**Medical advisory committee meets with Session via Zoom**



## 2020 Financial Picture – Data Through May



This is the financial summary with data through May. The chart on the left shows receipt of funding from all sources (principally contributions from members and visitors). The brown line reflects the usual month-to-month volatility in receipt of funding, although during the current pandemic, the swings have been greater than in a normal year. This is seen in the change from contributions of \$43,451 in April to \$14,586 in May. Our requirement to meet budget is for an average monthly contribution of \$32,000, as shown in the blue line. Our actual average thru May is close to this, at about \$31,000.

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 narrative under the left chart, actual revenues are only slightly lower than required revenues. At the same time, actual expenses are tracking lower than the forecasted total. The net result is that contributions have been sufficient to cover the costs of operating the church during these unusual times.



**Choir records music for Sunday Zoom worship services**

## ~ Phantom of the Organ ~

In months and years past, you have seen kids of all ages occasionally seated in the organ loft with me. Supporting and encouraging young musicians has been my joy, and it has been a privilege to have been mentor to some of them. A couple of these organ-loft enthusiasts have assisted in ways possible, turning pages, etc.

I would now like to introduce another entity that may be sitting beside me from time to time. The name is Syndee (Cindy), probably my most illusive helper, for she is an invisible organist. Syndee's nickname is derived from her full title, *Syndyne Pro-Filer MIDI Sequencer*. (MIDI = "Musical Instrument Digital Interface.") This small computer assistant — my *Phantom of the Organ* — has the ability to play the instrument without being seen. Syndee made her debut several years ago in playing a postlude, then later while playing a companion organ score with me on Sousa's "The Stars & Stripes Forever."



Syndyne Pro-Filer MIDI Sequencer

Syndee is a clone of your organist, pulling stops and playing keys just as I've programmed them in her memory, stored in a tiny thumb drive that you can see plugged into the rear of the device. She is NOT an audio recorder, but memorizes my physical motions at the instrument and recreates them on call. Everything you hear her play is coming from the live, breathing, functioning organ at the moment. She follows my musical commands, good and bad. You will not see keys being depressed, but you can see her pull the stops that I want her to use.

If we at PCCR find it possible to resume in-house services sometime near the 4th of July, I would like Syndee to assist during the postlude in my version of the Wilhousky "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Syndee will play the organ score and I will play the piano score, and we will try to start and stop together. If this works, I have another task for her in the near future. I would like to offer in worship Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, "18th Variation," but Rachmaninoff wrote it in concerto format. We have the piano but not the orchestra. Therefore, Syndee will try to become the orchestra. In the meantime, listen for the *Phantom of the Organ!* She's now learning the "Battle Hymn."

Now and always, for all of us, may the offerings of our music bring praise and glory to God!

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried, "Alleluia!" Let every instrument be tuned for Praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always: "Alleluia! Amen."*

— Hymn 264, Presbyterian Hymnal

*Larry*

Now for the **GOOD NEWS!!!** We are going to be able to meet together in a safe and distanced manner for a **wonderful send-off for Michael and Denise**. While Michael's leaving is so sad, Session has agreed that we cannot let Michael and Denise out of our church lives without an awesome farewell. So mark your calendars for a **"Farewell, Goodbye, So Long"** for Michael and Denise on **Sunday, August 2** at the church. We will most likely try to do most of our activity outdoors, so dress accordingly. More details to follow in the August newsletter, and also watch for a special email to be sent to the congregation.



The Membership and Hospitality Committee is anxious to work our magic, so plan to be at church at 11:00 am on August 2 for a classic PCCR event. Michael and Denise will be there to receive your well wishes. Can't wait!!!