



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

August 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 8

Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2020-21



Hope is something we all want in our lives, especially during this time of pandemic. We hope that a vaccine will become available, that we can once again meet together in person, and that we can go to the grocery store without a mask. The new Bible study for this coming year teaches us about laments, what they are, to whom they are directed, and how God can play a critical role in moving us from frustrations to faith. Please join Presbyterian Women in walking together through this Bible study where we can share laments with our caring friends and reach that Hope that will bring us peace.

The study books are currently available for \$10 each. If you were not able to pick up a book on Wednesday, July 22 at the outdoor church, please contact Karen Daugherty either via email jk@daughertys.us or phone 312-810-3671. Together we will determine the best way to deliver the book to you, either by mail or some other form of delivery. If you subscribe to *Horizons* Magazine, you will already have the study book, as it is part of the subscription.

The PW Board met virtually and determined that until we can deem it safe to meet together, we will continue to meet via Zoom. **Our first session will be on Monday, September 14.** We are pleased to announce that Pat Waltermire has agreed to provide us with an overview of the Bible Study on this date, and we look forward to her leadership. The following Monday, September 21 we will meet to study Lesson One titled "The Heart of Lament." We are looking for 9 different volunteers to each lead a lesson, starting in September and ending in May. Please contact either Karen Daugherty (contact information above) or Kathleen Black, 577-0854, to let us know which month/lesson you would like to lead.

Please mark your calendars now to meet with **PW Circle via Zoom the third Monday of each month, September through May.** Also add September 14, which will be our Bible study introduction and overview. The time and the Zoom link will be listed in the September Newsletter and will also be sent via email in early September. We sincerely hope you will join us as we work together to find hope and peace.

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://scotirishpadre.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 September Newsletter deadline is **Tuesday, August 18**. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!

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Recurring Weekly Zoom Schedule

Sunday	<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>
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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. 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.

Pastoral Care

Rev. Bruce Brackman will be available for any pastoral care needs beginning August 6, while Pastor Michael is on vacation.

Rev. Brackman can be reached at 816-520-1825, or by email, brucebrackman@gmail.com.

August 2020

From Pastor Michael Moore...

Where has the time gone? Five years ago Denise and I visited Estes Park and PCCR for the first time as the Presbyterian Courtship process continued. I remember exactly where we were when Peter called to ask if I would be interested in pursuing conversations with the PNC. The members of the PNC quickly drew us into a circle of compassion, love, and hope for the future. The five years of ministry with y'all has been quite an adventure. We have celebrated life, ministry, and community together. PCCR is truly a partner in the Estes Valley with the non-profit world in so many ways. From partnering with our Estes Park Non-Profit Resource Center friends on the garden level of the church to Ballet Renaissance and the multiple other organizations who partner with us, so much good work has been done.



We have also walked through the Valley of the Shadows together as we have celebrated the faith and life of so many dear members and friends of PCCR. It has been a sacred honor to do that and we will never forget the arms of compassion and care extended to both of us when our mothers died in November 2017 and March 2018. We are also incredibly grateful for sharing our joy, awe, and wonder as we discovered the beauty of our "backyard" in Rocky and the Estes Valley with you.

We walked with y'all through a visioning process, which I believe puts you in a very good position as you continue to vision and to search for the one whom God has already called to be the next shepherd of the PCCR family. God has already provided PCCR with so many gifted and talented people to lead you through this new season. Bruce Brackman has offered his pastoral services to his "adopted church family" in the time between my departure and the arrival of your Interim. The virtual pulpit will be filled with the familiar pastoral voices of Bruce and Tim McLemore along with guest preachers from the Presbytery. The Spirit will guide y'all through the process and Denise and I will continue to hold our PCCR family in our prayers.

As we move to Carrollton, Georgia and as I become their pastor, we will carry with us many fond memories and friendships. In the time of waiting and transition, may the lesson I learned from the bull moose in Rocky guide you. We spent almost an hour with this fellow a few years ago in his meadow. As he rested and grazed, a sense of peace and wonder descended on us in this thin place. In the midst of all that is going on in the world today, the calm presence of the moose is a reminder that God, who is faithful, is walking with you through the valley of uncertainty.

Grace and Peace,

Michael



An Open Letter to Michael and Denise

Michael, we are still getting used to losing you and Denise and have mixed emotions about this, as we suspect you do. We find ourselves trying to make lemonade from a whole lot of sadness. We remember our time as members of the PNC that conducted the search for you more than 5 years ago. We posted our job announcement on the denomination's Church Leadership Connection website in January 2015. The computer system immediately responded with a flow of applications from pastors who were ready for a new call. The initial set included a resumé from a former Air Force chaplain located in Florida. We reviewed this in our opening deliberation session and agreed that it was a pretty good match for what we sensed we wanted. We earmarked it as our first selection for additional review. Our process considered over 100 resumés. We selected a dozen for close examination. The effort took several months, included video and in-person interviews, and eventually led to a call to the first we had identified and the last we interviewed. Something Biblical here.

Well, here we go again. While we face the same process of finding a new pastor, the environment is quite different. When we looked 5 years ago, we were emerging from issues about what had gone on inside the church. Today, our challenges are primarily external from a pandemic that will hugely influence the future of our church.

We are not there yet, but we can see that your departure could set the stage for making lemonade out of this turmoil. With your encouragement before the pandemic, we had engaged in a visioning project to determine how we saw the church in the next decade. This gave us some good ideas. Now, the coronavirus and other influences tell us, whether we like it or not, to do more than just get back to normal. We need to build on those visioning ideas with a fresh look at what our church is and will be in whatever becomes the new normal. Perhaps this is best done by a call to a new pastor and transformative work by a congregation that will not let itself, even subconsciously, owe allegiance to what they have been comfortable with here. Perhaps God wants you to be that new presence in Georgia, not here. Perhaps God wants us to have new hands guide us through and out of the current mess of the coronavirus and social upheaval.

Michael, as you move on, remember the wisdom in the military concerning one's views on past assignments. When you are asked what your favorite position was, the answer is most often the one you just left. We hope that you and Denise will feel that about your time here. But understand that the new job will gradually become the best one. So, with that thought in mind, we hope that you will remember your time in Estes as the best experience you have had, and that you will also find over time that your call to Georgia will become the best. We toast to your future, as well as to the future of PCCR, and wish you Godspeed in your adventure.

The 2015 Pastor Nominating Committee



Shepherd Connection

Our church Elders and Deacons have been calling on members of the congregation during this pandemic. Hopefully, you have received a phone call, an email, or a handwritten card in the mail. We want to stay connected!

However, if you have not heard from anyone for whatever reason, please let us know! Call or email the church office (970-586-4404, office@pccrusa.org).

Café Justo Coffee Available

Coffee from the Café Justo cooperative is again available in these selections :

Robusta dark roast beans

Robusta dark roast ground

Arabica decaffeinated ground

All are full pound packages. Price is \$12 each (check to PCCR, memo "coffee" or cash).

Please call or text Lisa Plaut at 214-766-9876 with your order and address for porch side delivery.



Moment for Mission

Peru Covid Relief

Our mission coworker in Peru, Chenoa Stock, visited with us via Zoom at our fellowship meeting on June 14. She described how Peru is faring under the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown that had been in effect in Lima for over three months. She and her son had not ventured outside their apartment, not even into the hallway, for the entire time. Her husband makes shopping trips to stores in Lima once every two weeks. Chenoa noted that she and her family were doing better than much of the population – they had an apartment, electricity, cooking and refrigeration, and close-by shops. Many in Peru are not so fortunate. The lockdown in the cities asks people to stay home, but many have no resources and must go to work. Only a third of the poor households have running water, which makes it hard to keep clean. Only half the homes have refrigerators, forcing people to make frequent trips to crowded markets. These conditions, coupled with the lack of jobs, has forced many to leave the cities and return to rural areas where they can at least do farming. Those moves have transported the virus across the country.



We asked Chenoa what we could offer to support her ministry. She requested nothing for herself, but said there was an upcoming fundraiser to assist the Peru Joining Hands Network, the organization that Chenoa principally serves, in its Covid-19 relief efforts. Chenoa has notified us that the fundraiser is now under way and will take place through August. We hope to contribute to this relief effort. If you can, please donate through our church website. We will consolidate the gifts and will coordinate with Chenoa to get the funds to the proper agency.

Please click [here](#) to make a gift by a credit card charge. This will take you to the PCCR website's Contribute page. See the instructions printed in green type on that page. Put "Peru Covid Relief" in the memo to designate where your contribution is to go. Any amount will be greatly appreciated by those in need in Peru.

Session Highlights ~ July 2020

- ◊ Session continues to meet every two weeks in order to assess the status of the pandemic and determine how to proceed with church activities, as well as to take care of regular business.
- ◊ Met with Rev. Joseph Moore who will serve as the representative to PCCR from the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) after Pastor Michael leaves. He will work in conjunction with Elder Kirk Ping who is also on the COM.
- ◊ Voted to accept Pastor Michael's letter of resignation and recommend the terms of the Voluntary Dissolution Agreement between Pastor Michael Moore and PCCR to the congregation for a vote.
- ◊ Noted a report from Mission and Outreach that we have had a good response to the request for blankets for Malawi. Also noted that coffee sales are being managed by Lisa Plaut for the time being.
- ◊ Heard that the All Church Picnic has been cancelled for this year.
- ◊ Received a suggestion from Worship and Music committee to experiment with an outside venue for a worship service while the weather is nice. The Zoom format will continue for those who are not comfortable gathering in person.
- ◊ Work continues on upgrading the road into the Columbarium; the AED equipment has been upgraded; an outdoors cleanup project is scheduled for July 9 and 10.
- ◊ Received the recommendation from our Medical Advisory Team that the church building remain closed, although they concur with Worship and Music that an outdoor service could be planned.
- ◊ Scheduled the congregational meeting for July 19 to vote on Pastor Michael's resignation .
- ◊ Approved the following policies developed by the Personnel Committee: Sexual Misconduct Policy, Child Abuse or Neglect Policy, and the Vulnerable Adults Abuse/Neglect Policy.
- ◊ Noted at the July 20 meeting that there has been an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in EP and Larimer County. This could result in our variance being revoked. Impact on PCCR would have to be reassessed if that happens.

Deacon Highlights ~ July 2020

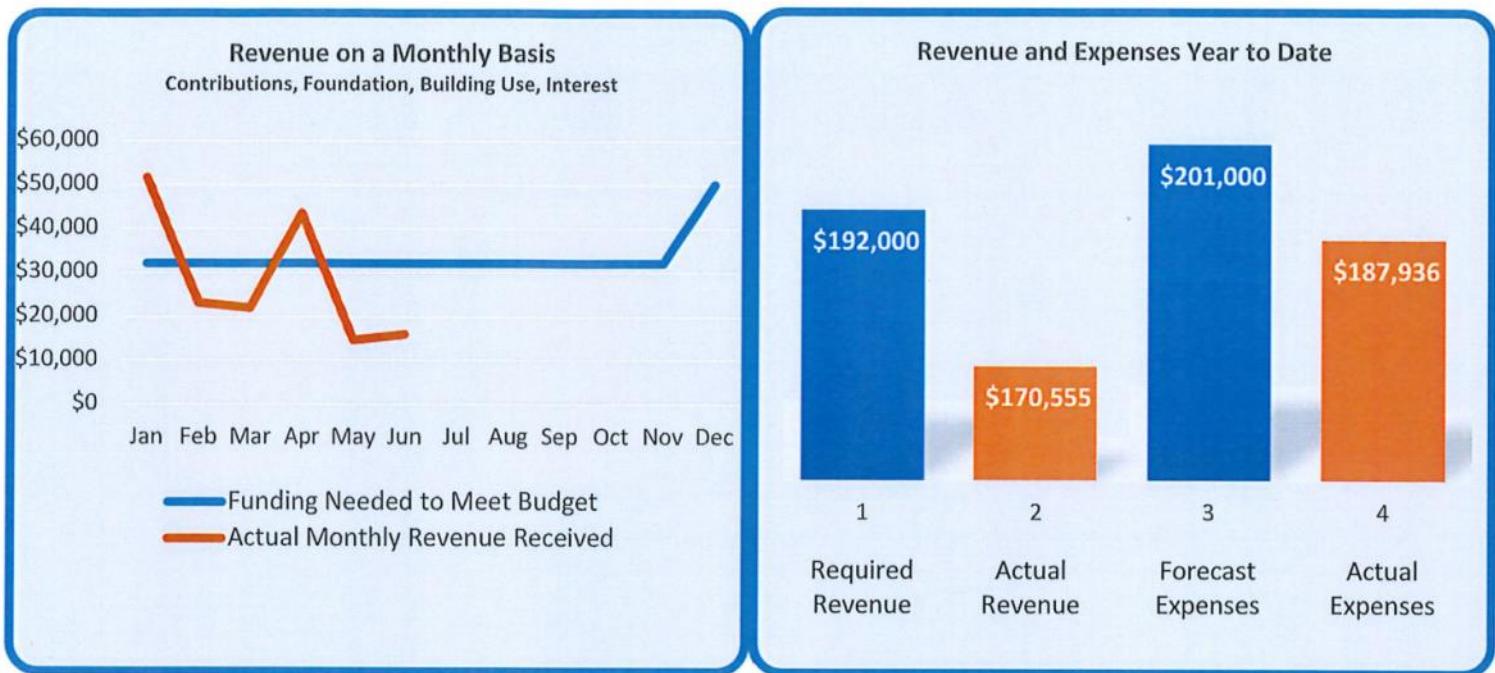
- ◊ Carolyn Kramer, co-moderator, opened the meeting with each member present telling about their recent experiences.
- ◊ Verlene Thorp gave devotions, which she based on Romans 12:12. It reminds the reader not to worry about tomorrow as it is in God's hands.
- ◊ Judy Portman gave a report on recent Session meetings dealing with Pastor Michael's resignation and ways to worship and reach out to members virtually during the virus crisis.
- ◊ Ways to help those on our prayer list when meals and memorials cannot be done were discussed. Please let Carolyn know if there are members needing extra help during this time.
- ◊ Under old business, we discussed the phone calls that Deacons and Session members make to members each week. Perhaps sending a card or note sometimes would be a way to change up the communication.
- ◊ Perhaps having meetings outside on the church patio might be possible with proper distancing and wearing masks.
- ◊ The next meeting of the Deacons will be August 11 at 7 pm via ZOOM.



**Passing the Peace
at the Outdoor
Worship Service
on July 22**



2020 Financial Picture – Data Through June



This is the financial summary with data through June. 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. Our requirement to meet budget is for an average monthly contribution of \$32,000, as shown by the blue line. Our average through June has fallen below the target. Given the impact of the pandemic on all our lives, this is an understandable situation and is no reason for concern.

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. While revenue is now below the average amount needed to meet budget by the end of the year, expenses are also running below the amount forecasted for this time in the year. The gap between actual revenues and actual expenses is approximately \$17,000. We are still in good shape, as we applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program loan, which will make up the difference.

Finance Report

After a terrific start to the year, our contributions have fallen off over the past couple of months. Given the Covid-19 government support program that has reimbursed the church for the payroll and other related expenses, plus the reduction in payroll for staff due to a change in pastors, the outlook for the year remains positive.

Of course, the expenses to operate the church continue and your ongoing support is critical. There are several ways each of us can fulfill our financial commitments: direct payments, checks, direct charge card payments, Google pay, PayPal, to name just a few. Given the unusual ways we have been forced to congregate and hold meetings, your continued support of our church is remarkable.

Know that today and when this is behind us, our church will continue to be here to serve your needs. Thank you and stay safe.

*Bob Holcomb
Chairperson, Finance Committee and Session member*

For the past few weeks a verse from Ecclesiastes has been echoing in my head and heart. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.* One translation says, *There is a right time for everything.* Some moments I find myself thinking, "Really God? This is the right time for us to be called to a new church, leave our precious congregation, our friends in Estes Park, the elk, the majesty of the mountains, and to move across the country...in the middle of a pandemic?" Then I am reminded that God's ways are not our ways and I have always found comfort in the fact that God's logic is far above my own.

Five years ago when we visited Estes Park at the invitation of PCCR's Pastor Nominating Committee I knew in my heart that this was indeed where God was calling us. For that we will be forever grateful. I desperately wanted to be in a church where I was welcomed and allowed to use my gifts and be myself. Even so, I never imagined that you would welcome and embrace me in the way you did! Patti recruited me for handbells as soon as the congregation voted to extend Michael the call! We were literally still in the sanctuary! We arrived and Lois Sumey showed up ready to help unpack! Then the ladies of the church had a "welcome to winter" shower for this woman who had never lived farther north than North Alabama, and Presbyterian Women invited me to preach for the Thank Offering. All that within the first two months! That welcome and inclusion never ended and I have truly felt like I belonged!

It seems that it is time for a new season in our life and in the life of Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. This has lead me to think about seasons. I believe PCCR is heading into autumn where changes are visible, but I remember our denomination's motto...reformed and always reforming. Indeed, PCCR has changed over the past five years, just as it always has and will continue into the future. This time is a visible reminder of that change and an opportunity to discern just who God is calling our church to become.

I believe PCCR is also heading into a winter of no permanent installed pastor. Winter seems harsh and barren, but in reality the roots are being nurtured way beneath the surface. Remember the expectation that life is about to emerge. In the meantime, remember that all members of our church are the ministers (1 Peter). Use whatever gifts God has given you and I promise the Holy Spirit will equip and nurture you in your work.

PCCR is also headed into springtime. What a marvelous hope we have in God! Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God already knows the very good plans for PCCR's future. Indeed, God has already chosen your new pastor; it's just up to the PNC to discern whom God has chosen. And finally PCCR is headed into summer where we see the fruits of winter and spring and are reminded of God's faithfulness in the cycles of life.

Michael and I will hold all of you in our prayers and in our hearts as you continue ministry in Estes Park. We will forever be thankful for the opportunity to journey with PCCR for the past five years and look forward to seeing PCCR continue to be a beacon of God's love in the Estes Valley. Mostly, we cherish the memories and friendships we take with us.

*Grace and Peace,
Denise*

**I know what I'm
doing. I have it all
planned out—plans to
take care of you, not
abandon you, plans
to give you the future
you hope for.**

**Jeremiah 29:10
(The Message)**