



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

## January 2021 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 9, Number 1

Greetings, Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies!

It is an honor to accept the call to serve as your congregation's new Interim Pastor! My family and I recently moved to Louisville, CO from Milwaukee, WI. For the past eight years I served North Shore Presbyterian Church in Shorewood, WI as their Head of Staff Pastor.

I am a native of Wichita, KS. My ministry began in San Francisco where I attended San Francisco Theological Seminary. I first served as a hospital chaplain in the Bay Area before moving to St. Louis to serve as Pastor of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church.

My wife Rita, our two children, Mattea (11) and Rowan (10), and Olive (our furry Goldendoodle) are so excited to be in Colorado. We look forward to meeting each of you and becoming a part of the PCCR Family. When we are not in school or at work our family enjoys hiking, biking, and playing golf. Our kids have yet to ski in the Colorado mountains, but with a bit of luck we will check that box later this winter.

I want to express my deepest thanks to your PNC and Session for their hospitality as they graciously extended the call to serve as your Interim Pastor. Your congregation's rich history and its vital presence in the Estes Park community resonate with my call to ministry. I am enthusiastic about joining you in ministry and in sharing God's love and grace within your congregation and throughout the Estes Park community.

In Christ's Faithful Service,  
Pastor Chris



## PCCR Directory

**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; closed Fridays

**Office Phone:** 970-586-4404

**Church Website:** [pccrusa.org](http://pccrusa.org)

### Church Staff

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Chris Davis, 414-690-4488

**Pulpit Supply Pastor:**

Rev. Bruce Brackman, phone 816-520-1825, or email, [brucebrackman@gmail.com](mailto:brucebrackman@gmail.com)

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

**Choir Director/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)

## Sunday Worship Schedule



**January 3 — 10:00 am, Communion—Rev. Bruce Brackman  
Patti Dolezal, liturgist**

**January 10— 10:00 am—Rev. Chris Davis, preaching  
Rev. Bruce Brackman and Patti Dolezal, liturgists**

**January 17, 24, 31—10:00 am—Rev. Chris Davis, preaching  
Patti Dolezal, liturgist**

**Virtual Worship:** Services will be presented on Zoom using the following access information, which is also available at [pccrusa.org](http://pccrusa.org).

Join Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/86165181814>

Meeting ID: **861 6518 1814** Password: **80517**

Or call in by telephone at any of the following 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**

Virtual Fellowship Time immediately follows the Zoom worship service, at approximately 10:40 am. No additional log-in numbers are needed. Join in any time starting at 10:00 am using the listed Meeting ID.

***Please note: Worship services will be recorded and posted to the church website, allowing members of the congregation to access the service at any time through our webpage, [pccrusa.org](http://pccrusa.org). Broadcasting and/or video recording of services will continue even after the current pandemic to allow members who are homebound to enjoy worship at PCCR.***

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 February Newsletter deadline is [Tuesday, January 19](#).**

**Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org) Thanks!**

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If you have already made a **pledge for 2021**, thank you for your continued support. If you have not yet decided on your pledge, take a moment to reflect on the importance of our church to you, your family, friends, and the community.

***Thank you for your support for the ministry of our church!***



Estes Park at night during the holidays

## ***IT'S NOT GOOD-BYE BUT "GOOD WAY TO YOU!"***

*Greetings to each of you in the name of the One who came to this earth for each of us – Jesus the Christ.*

*I remember like it was yesterday when I was backpacking the Grand Canyon from the South Rim to the North Rim and back to the South Rim. I have done that trip four times. One trip in particular, when I was on my way back to the South Rim, I was taking a break, sitting on a rock just off the trail, having a protein bar and drinking some water. A couple from Germany stopped and was inquiring about my trek. They took an extreme interest in my journey and had all kinds of questions. Finally, it was time that I be on my way. I thanked them for the visit and the company. As they departed, they said to me, "Good way to you!"*



*"Good way to you!" I like that a lot and I've continued to share that sending as I've continued to hike. We have journeyed together for four months. What was asked of me at the very start was would I be pulpito supply and provide pastoral care. To provide some sense of normalcy during this crazy year I asked and was granted that I spend two days a week in the office with regular office hours. Well, that morphed into being included in meetings with various groups and being asked to share some of my insights. Quickly it turned into my being (unofficially, of course) an interim pastor before the interim.*

*Hospitality is something special in scripture. Romans 12:11-13 says, "Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of saints; extend hospitality to strangers." Though I wasn't a stranger you welcomed me with grace. You welcomed this former Lutheran pastor with a different look, i.e., vestments and quirks in the liturgy, and never complained. Your openness and willingness to accept me for who and what I am was and is very heartwarming. And though I will deny it if asked, you almost converted this Lutheran to Presbyterian.*

*Each of you has welcomed me with loving care and many of you have shared your faith journey with me. I treasure and cherish my journey with you as pastor, though not the "Called" pastor. I pray that God has touched your life in new and various ways over the past four months. I can't say this about all the parishes I have served, but it has been an amazing journey with you.*

*Knowing you as I do, I am confident that you will welcome Pastor Chris and his family into your loving care. May your life as servants of God continue to be "ardent in spirit" and ones that "persevere in prayer." People of God, people of PCCR, continue to be fruitful, faith-filled and continue to "Contribute to the needs of saints; extend hospitality to strangers."*

*To each of you "Good way to you!"*

*Your Servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Bruce*



## Zoom Etiquette Tips

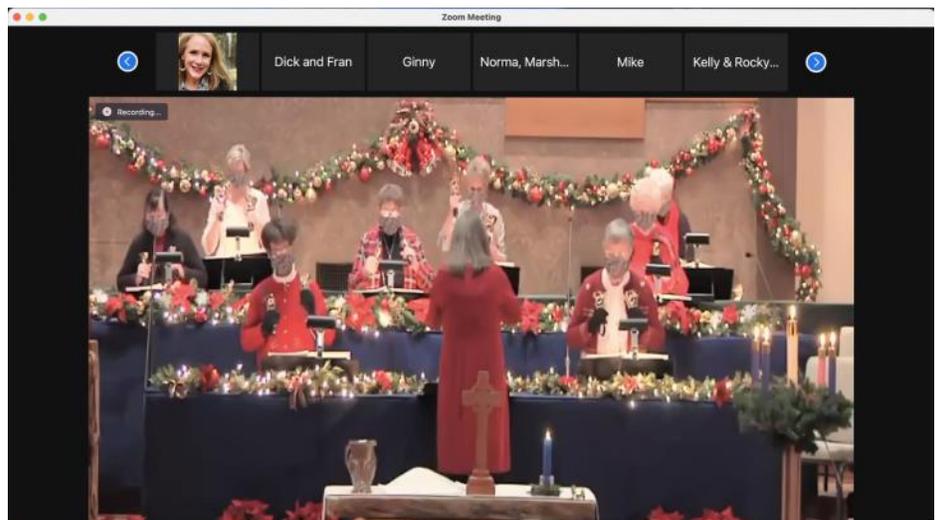
We have been in “Zoom world” for 10 months now and we expect it will continue for many more. Although gathering in person is certainly our preference, we have had to accept the need to meet virtually. Following are a few tips on how to engage in a successful Zoom meeting.

### Set up your “studio” or background.

- ⇒ **Position your camera properly.** The angle and closeness of the camera may distort features. Present yourself in the best way by setting up your device so that the camera is at eye level and you look at it straight on, not up or down. If you are using a tablet or phone, prop the device on something steady.
- ⇒ **Choose a nice background.** Have adequate lighting on your face so that you show up against the background, and avoid being in front of a sunny window that causes glaring.
- ⇒ **Minimize distractions.** Set up your camera so that any potential background activity would not be included in the picture.
- ⇒ **Select your image.** Check your picture on the screen to be aware of how others will see you. Dress as though you were meeting in person, making sure you are projecting the image you wish to have viewed.

### Manage your Zoom screen effectively.

- ⇒ **If you log in early,** take care to act as if the meeting or church service has started. Turn off the audio and video before having a conversation with somebody in another room.
- ⇒ **Do not multitask.** Give priority to the Zoom gathering by not participating in other activities while on screen, unless necessary. Avoid carrying your device and walking around during the meeting; rather turn off the video camera before moving around. The gallery will then show your name and you will still see the meeting, but not be on active video.
- ⇒ **Set the Zoom controls with your audio muted.** Learn where the controls are on the Zoom screen so that you can manage audio and video settings, send a chat when needed, and avoid sharing your screen.
  - If your audio is turned on and not muted, any time Zoom detects background sounds from your microphone (such as a cough, typing on your keyboard, a telephone ringing, someone talking in another room, etc.) Zoom will put you in speaker view, where your picture takes over the screen for all participants to see.
  - To avoid having your picture take over everyone's screen, be sure to keep your microphone muted. Unmute your microphone when you wish to talk to the group.
  - Use chat messages sparingly and normally send a chat message to a specific person or host rather than the entire group, if possible.
- ⇒ **Use video screen when participating in meetings. Turn off video while participating in worship service.** Good advice is that if you need to move around or are not appropriately dressed for public viewing, turn off your video. Limit other distractions by turning off computer and phone notifications, minimizing apps not related to the Zoom gathering, and muting your smartphone.





**Zoom behind the scenes**



**Safe distance worship viewing live service from the Fellowship Hall**



**Lighting the Advent Candle**



December 20, 2020  
4th Sunday of Advent

Rev. Bruce Brackman

Larry Gillum, organist



## ***Into the Light*** **PW Bible Study—January 18**



Presbyterian Women continue to discuss the Horizon's Bible Study, *Into the Light* on the third Monday of each month. In January, Linda McCreery will lead us through Lesson 5 which is "Lamenting Life." This Bible study continues to nurture us as we explore new ways to remain in community during this time of Lament and speaks powerfully to our current realities.

Lynn Miller writes: "When we look around us and find cause to lament, we know full well God's reign isn't fully here. But we also know that God is working in this world and that the day of God's reign is coming. That is what gives us hope, not just for tomorrow or some far-distant future, but also for today. God isn't somewhere out there waiting in a perfect place. God is walking beside each of us in our troubles today, hearing our cries and answering our calls."

Please join us as we journey together through this very enlightening and encouraging study. The directions for joining on Zoom are located next to this article. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

### **PW December Circle Meeting**

**Monday, January 18, 2020 at 12:00 noon**

**Join PW Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93520280634>**

**Meeting ID: 935 2028 0634      Passcode: 80517**

**Or Dial by telephone:** (Meeting ID: 935 2028 0634 )

1-346-248-7799                      1-312-626-6799

1-669-900-6833                      1-929-436-2866

1-253-215-8782                      1-301-715-8592

**PW meets on 3rd Monday monthly.**

## **Presbyterian Women – Serving our Community and our World**

The PW Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who pledged to Presbyterian Women this year and to those who responded to our Thank Offering opportunity. Your faithful response and generosity have enabled us to provide help to those in need, both locally and globally. Through your pledges we were able to support the mission of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Synod, and Churchwide. Your gifts to the Thank Offering continued to arrive at church and \$1054 was collected to help fund the fifteen projects that provide needed services to women and children both in the United States and internationally.

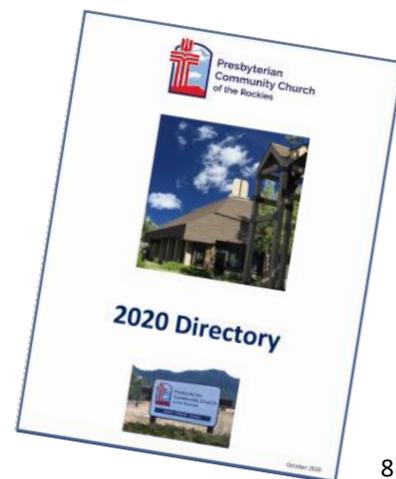
In addition, your PW Board provided support to the following local missions: Ballet Renaissance, Estes Valley Crisis Advocates, Highlands Presbyterian Camp, EVICS, and the Learning Place. In these challenging times you have responded with open and loving hearts. Thanks again for sharing the peace of God with others. We hope in return you will also be lifted up with a peace the "surpasses all understanding."

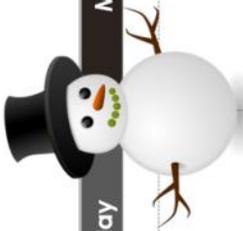
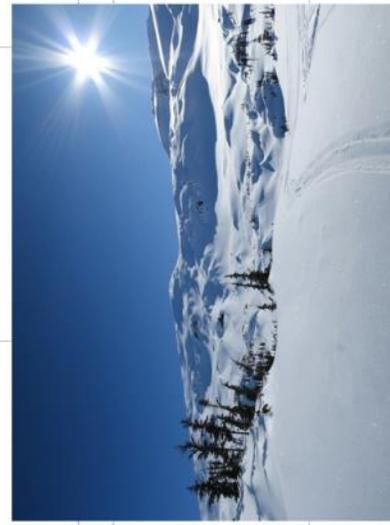


### **Don't Forget!**

**Time for a new directory...** Please call or email the church office if you have **any changes to your contact information** (phone number, email address, home mailing address), 970-586-4404 or email at **office@pccrusa.org**.

Also, if you would like to **add or change your photo in the directory**, please contact Peter Plaut, 586-3742, or the church office, and we'll arrange for your picture to be taken. Thank you!



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
													
3	8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship Service (Zoom)	4		5	12:30pm-Staff Meeting 3:00 pm-Mission and Outreach (Zoom)	6		7		8		9	
10	8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship (Zoom)	11	11:00am-Communications (Zoom) 3:00pm-Personnel Committee (Zoom)	12	4:30pm-Stephen Ministers (Zoom) 7:00pm-Deacons (Zoom) 7:00pm-Health Advisory Team (Zoom)	13	9:30am-Finance (Zoom)	14		15		16	
17	8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship Service (Zoom)	18	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 12:00pm-PW Circle Meeting and Bible Study (Zoom)	19	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	20		21	9:00am-Columbarium Committee (Zoom)	22		23	
24	8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship Service (Zoom)	25	8:30am-Membership and Hospitality Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm-Session (Zoom)	26	7:00pm-Health Advisory Team (Zoom)	27		28		29		30	
31	8:30am-Journeys Class (Zoom) 10:00am-Worship Service (Zoom)												

**Note: Calendar events subject to change**

## Session Highlights ~ December 2020

- ◇ Held a special meeting on December 14 to approve extending the offer to Rev. Chris Davis to serve as our interim pastor. Motion passed unanimously.
- ◇ Approved a recommendation from Worship and Music to hold two in-person Christmas Eve services, with strict adherence to the Covid guidelines for safe meetings.
- ◇ Received a report from the Clerk, noting that training for new Elders and Deacons was held on December 2; that the email vote to hold a special Session meeting on December 4 was favorable; and that new Deacons and Elders were installed at the December 13 worship service.
- ◇ Approved sending out a reminder letter to the congregation regarding pledging.
- ◇ Approved a Whistleblower policy as recommended by our auditors.
- ◇ Noted that Mission and Outreach has sent a donation to the Malawi school to help fund their annual Christmas dinner.
- ◇ Reservations are now being accepted through the church office for those who want to attend one of the two Christmas Eve services (2 p.m. and 5 p.m.).
- ◇ Heard from Building and Grounds that we may have the TrailBlazer broadband available at the church within the next week or two, and that the first major project for 2021 will be having repairs made to our roof.
- ◇ Welcomed Rev. Chris Davis to the regular Session meeting.
- ◇ Elected Jack Boatman to continue serving as Church Treasurer for 2021.
- ◇ Elected Barbara Cole to continue as Clerk of Session for 2021.
- ◇ Rescheduled the January 2021 Session meeting for January 25.
- ◇ Set the Annual Congregational meeting for February 7, 2021.
- ◇ Recognized outgoing Elders Kent Meyer and Caroline Smith and thanked them for their service.
- ◇ Expressed loving thanks to Rev. Bruce Brackman for his dedicated service as our pulpit supply and for the pastoral care he has provided for PCCR the past four months.

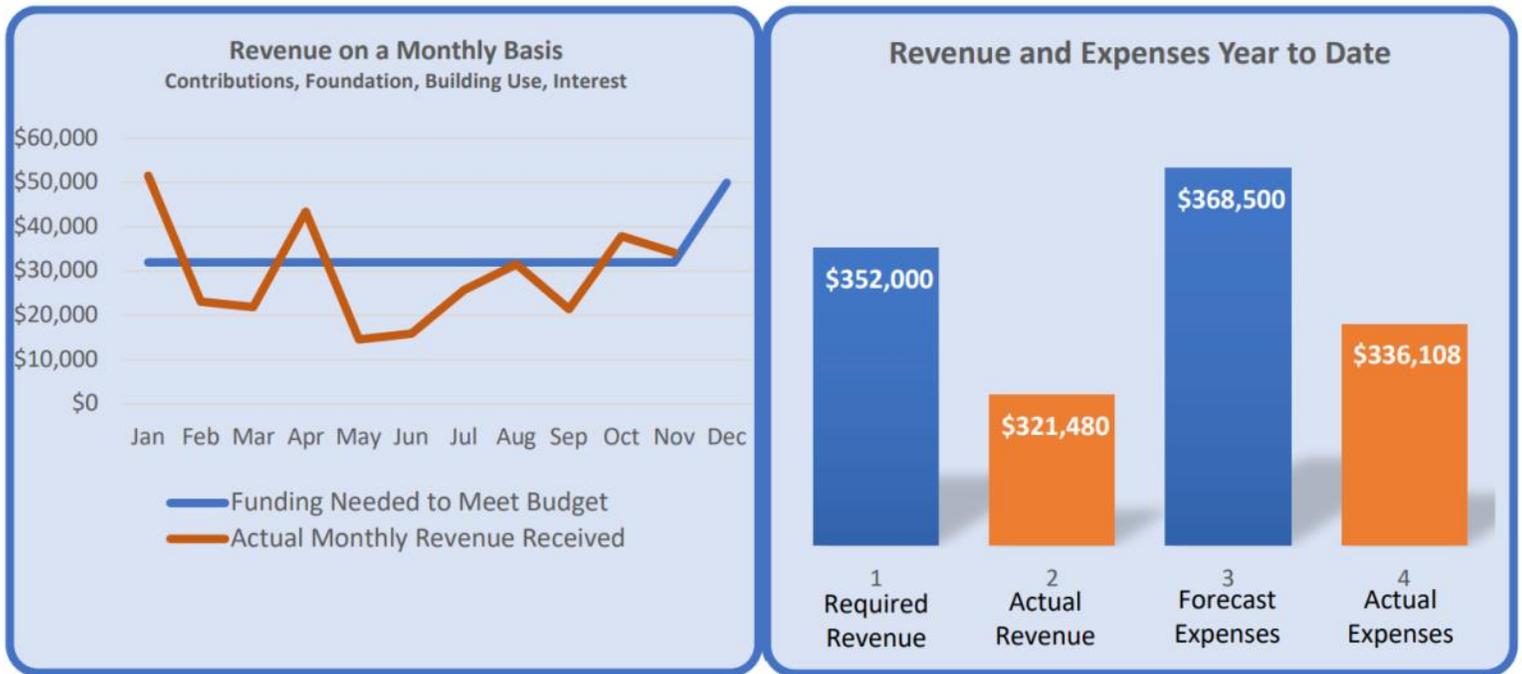


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## Deacon Highlights ~ December 2020

- ◇ Carolyn Kramer, co-moderator opened the meeting. Unfortunately, we were back to meeting on Zoom.
- ◇ Verlene Thorp had devotions and read the entry from the December 8 entry in the booklet which was distributed to the congregation.
- ◇ Session minutes from November were read.
- ◇ The end of the year financial report was complete. It will be mostly the same as we have not had many expenses this past year due to the Covid-19 restrictions. We will add \$50.00 to the communion item since, when we again are able to worship in the sanctuary, we will be using the self-contained sacraments.
- ◇ Procedures for serving in-church communion were reviewed.
- ◇ The procedures for calling members who do not have Wi-Fi with emailed information was reviewed.
- ◇ The delivery of the Christmas bags that were delivered to members was discussed. It was thought to be a worthy project that people enjoyed getting.
- ◇ The officer training workshop which was offered on Zoom was evaluated.
- ◇ Judy Schaffer read a passage from *Jesus Calling* to end the meeting.

## 2020 Financial Picture – Data Through November



This is the financial summary with data through November. The chart on the left shows funding from all sources (principally contributions from members and visitors). The brown line reflects the usual month-to-month volatility in receipt of funding. We need an average monthly contribution of \$32,000, as shown by the blue line, to meet budget. Our November contributions were on target, at \$34,221.

The chart above compares the average year to date revenue required to meet budget with actual receipts (the two bars on the left) and provides a similar comparison of anticipated average year to date expenditures with actual spending. The gap between the two brown bars, actual revenues compared to actual expenses, is a small deficit of \$14,628.

### Welcome New Church Elders and Deacons

The ordination and installation of church officers was held during the worship service on Sunday, December 13, 2020 via Zoom. Please join in welcoming our newest Ruling Elders and Deacons.



**Ruling Elders, Class of 2023: Dot Rohrbaugh and Sue Yowell**

**Deacons, Class of 2023: Sharyn Gartner, Carol Pearson, Tami Scace, and Robert Sherrod**

### 2021 Session and Deacons

**Session:**

**Class of 2021:** Michael Moon, Ford Nielsen, Peter Plaut, Pat Waltermire

**Class of 2022:** Randy Brigham, Bob Holcomb, Stan Osborne, Mike Warren

**Class of 2023:** Jan Boatman, Dot Rohrbaugh, Sherry Unruh, Sue Yowell

**Deacons:**

**Class of 2021:** Marilyn Irwin, Carolyn Kramer, Judy Portman, Judy Schaffer

**Class of 2022:** Joan Buhlmann, Susie Manhoff, Katha Schweitzer, Verlene Thorp

**Class of 2023:** Sharyn Gartner, Carol Pearson, Tami Scace, Robert Sherrod

## Thank You Staff

The staff of the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies has done an outstanding job for our church during the crazy year 2020. Like all of us, their world was rocked for the first time on March 14<sup>th</sup> when the Session voted to temporarily suspend services and close the church building. For the first of many times during the year, they had to jump into action to figure out how to keep the church going when the doors were closed.

The next time their boat was rocked was in June when Pastor Moore announced that he was leaving. We were in the midst of Zoom church services and much angst about what was happening with the pandemic. By early August the staff members were without a Head of Staff and relying on Session members to help with difficult decisions such as "Can we hold any in-person worship services?"

And then in October their boat was rocked again with the evacuation of Estes Park due to the wildfire. The day of the evacuation was a Thursday, the church doors needed to be locked once more, and somehow the congregation needed to be notified that there would be no Sunday services.

Each time that we all had to face another time of uncertainty our staff faced uncertainty both for the church and for themselves. When the church was locked the staff members had to figure out how to do their work from home or to come to work safely. The bills still needed to be paid, worship services continued, the newsletter distributed, the phone answered, and the building maintained.

Our staff, however, kept the members of the congregation forefront in their minds, often sacrificing for the good of all. The staff knew that many of the church members had to stay isolated and some did not have the benefit of internet for communication. Again and again the staff members worked alongside church volunteers to care for the church family.

**Thank You** – Pastor Bruce, Terry Brigham, Carolyn Hull, Patti Dolezal, Larry Gillum, and Rich Dixon for the many things that you have done for our church family.

