



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

April 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 4

Pioneering New Paths

We have been working hard to establish **new ways to communicate** through worship and fellowship, while keeping our social distance throughout the virus crisis in our world. The schedule of events on the next page includes login information you will need in order to attend/participate in midweek and Sunday worship, midday prayer time, and fellowship and social hours using Zoom.

Zoom is a video conferencing software app that allows you to virtually interact with others when in-person events and meetings are not possible. Zoom helps you stay connected while being apart. You **do not** need a computer to access these events; 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.

Learning how to hold virtual fellowship events definitely stretches our imagination. We will be engaging in weekly Fellowship Hours every Sunday at 11:00 am and a Social Hour every Thursday at 4:30 pm. Look for more fellowship opportunities in the future.

Check the church Facebook page where we will post twice daily pictures with scripture or inspirational quotes. Check our church website for information. Read Pastor Michael's blogs on Facebook or view directly on <https://scotsirishpadre.blog>

Shepherd Connection — As another way to stay connected during this time, your Elders and Deacons have lists of names and phone numbers of our members. They will be calling you regularly just to chat. Please give the office a call if you do not hear from one. We may not have your correct phone number.

Church office — Our office hours will be very limited until further notice. However, voicemail messages will be checked periodically while staff work from home.

Thank you again for your flexibility and willingness to explore various options as we pioneer new paths on our Spiritual Journey together.



PCCR Directory

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 to 3:30,
Friday Closed

Office Phone: 970-586-4404

Church Website: pccrusa.org

Disciples

All who seek to follow Jesus

Church Staff

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

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal,
music@pccrusa.org

Choir Director: Rich Dixon

Organist: Larry Gillum

Finance: Carolyn Hull,
finance@pccrusa.org

Office Coordinator:
Terry Brigham,
office@pccrusa.org

Sexton: Rich Dixon

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, April 21. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: office@pccrusa.org Thanks!

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April Worship Schedule (Online with Zoom)

Preaching: Rev. Michael Moore

April 1 — Wednesday Worship, 6:00 pm

April 5 — Palm Sunday Worship, 6:00 pm, Communion

April 8 — Wednesday Worship, 6:00 pm

April 9* — Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:00 pm

April 10* — Good Friday Worship, 12:00 noon

*Link: <https://zoom.us/j/989795128>

*Call-in number: 1-253-215-8782



April 12 — Easter Sunday Worship (details to be announced)

April 15 — Wednesday Worship, 6:00 pm

April 19 — Sunday Worship, 6:00 pm

April 22 — Wednesday Worship, 6:00 pm

April 26 — Sunday Worship, 6:00 pm

April 29 — Wednesday Worship, 6:00 pm



Recurring Weekly Online Schedule

Call-in Phone Number: 1-253-215-8782

Activity and Time	Link to Meeting	Meeting #
Fellowship Hour every Sun. 11:00 am	https://zoom.us/j/208642989	208 642 989
Worship every Sun. 6:00 pm	https://zoom.us/j/106492224	106 492 224
Midday Prayer every Mon. –Thurs. 12 noon	https://zoom.us/j/275108954	275 108 954
Midweek Worship every Wed. 6:00 pm	https://zoom.us/j/787960956	787 960 956
Social Hour every Thurs. 4:30 pm	https://zoom.us/j/547178866	547 178 866

Watch for new events or changes as they occur by checking the church website pccrusa.org. If you have questions or concerns, call the church office, 970-586-4404.

For help with Zoom, contact Denise Moore via email: techpccr@gmail.com

April 2020

From Pastor Michael Moore...

Dear Sisters and Brothers, it is amazing how quickly life has changed for us. When we began our Lenten Journey through the Wilderness little did we know that we would be entering another sort of wilderness with the spread of the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus and the mandated protocols being put into place by everyone from our Town Mayor, Administrator, and Trustees to the Governor and our federal government. There is so much information out there that it can be overwhelming.

Your church leadership and I are working diligently to keep our virtual doors open. One lesson this is teaching us is that the church is not the building, it is the people. It has been such a blessing to “see” so many of you in Worship and Fellowship on-line and even on land-lines. You can also stay connected to what is happening in the life of our church via the website (<https://pccrusa.org>) or the church’s Facebook page.

As one person said about the virtual worship, the time spent with the congregation and the feeling of normalcy that the message imparted was much appreciated. As we continue to navigate this new reality together, we are doing as much as we can to reach out via emails, phone calls, and these Zoom Worship and Fellowship experiences.

May God’s richest blessings be upon each of you as we walk this journey of faith and life together.

Grace and Peace,

Michael



April 5, which is Palm Sunday, is our regularly scheduled week for Communion. For many of us Communion is a very important part of our worship experience, and we look forward to sharing the Cup and Bread with our church family each month.

Every October our congregation joins others around the world to celebrate World Communion Sunday as a reminder that the Church represents One Body. As we partake with different elements in our individual churches, theologically we are all sharing the same loaf and cup.

The same will be true on April 5. Wherever you are, we invite each of you to prepare a cup of something to drink (it does not have to be juice) and a piece of bread or cracker or even a cookie. Whatever you have will do. The sacrament of Communion is a symbolic remembering of Christ’s death and resurrection.

During our virtual worship Pastor Michael will lead the congregation in communion by offering the Words of Institution and invite everyone to raise their cup and bread to take the elements as a community. This may seem a bit strange, but Michael and Denise took communion with pastors on a Zoom (virtual) conference and found it to be meaningful. We sincerely hope you will be blessed by this as well.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

We are in the midst of a global health crisis presented by the rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus. It is tempting to focus inwardly as we deal with the personal impact of the pandemic. But in this time of great need, we must remember that an essential part of our mission and outreach effort includes contributing to the four major special offering programs of our denomination. Before us during Lent is the One Great Hour of Sharing, which sustains Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Each of these serves individuals and communities in need across the world.

We are a connectional church, and it is interesting to see how our contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing complements our separate support for the mission co-worker couple we help in Peru. We principally support them through the Presbyterian Mission part of the denomination. Our gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps fund the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which will use this money for a grant to a campaign of the Joining Hands program in Peru for a national environmental health care effort to assist communities that are impacted by contamination resulting from various mining activities. Our mission co-workers, Chenoa Stock and José Luis Claire, are based in Lima and work under the auspices of Joining Hands Peru.

We are a small church, but gifts from churches like ours add up. For example, the Presbyterian Hunger Program is able to distribute grants of nearly a million dollars around the globe each year because we contribute our small, but meaningful, share. Let's keep Chenoa and José in mind as we support this One Great Hour of Sharing.

In Isaiah 58, the prophet calls us to be “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in,” to care for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable.” In this time of world-wide crisis, we must remember to continue our support for programs that spread our ministry beyond our immediate needs. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a joint program of Christian denominations, we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, food to those who are hungry and compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional or spiritual. Together, we become the household of God; and all are welcome.

While we cannot pass a collection plate in our sanctuary, we can join in giving through our virtual connections. Please click here: [Give to One Great Hour of Sharing](#) to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing by making your gift electronically. Because when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

In His Service,

Your Mission and Outreach
Representatives



Please keep the following Presbyterian mission co-workers in your prayers:

- ◆ Jeremy and Lubat Garbat-Welch
- ◆ Mark Adams, Miriam Maldonado-Esoabar and family (Cindy Yessenia, Anna Flor, and Nathan)
- ◆ Chenoa Stock and family (husband Jose Luis Claire and son Leandro Aiden)
- ◆ Paula Cooper, mission co-worker in Malawi and adjacent countries

A message from Sara Lisherness, interim director of World Mission, about our mission co-workers:

We know many of you keep our mission co-workers in your prayers on a daily basis so I wanted to give you an update on them in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PC(USA) has requested that all mission co-workers with the United States as home-base (U.S. Citizens and U.S. permanent residents) return to the U.S. as recommended by the State Department. World Mission's crisis team is meeting seven days a week to coordinate individually with each mission co-worker in each country to determine the best course of action. In some cases, borders and airports are closed and in other cases our mission co-workers are making the decision to shelter-in-place. Those that are sheltering-in-place have submitted detailed plans for how to remain safe or be evacuated if necessary.

This was a very difficult decision, arrived at after much prayer and discernment, but considering the unpredictable spread of the virus, we strongly believe it is the best course of action.

The situation is changing rapidly but we will do our best to keep you posted on major developments. Please continue to hold these faithful servants in your prayers.

In these difficult times, we put our trust In God as the Psalmist reminds us. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Paula Cooper, mission co-worker in Malawi and adjacent countries

"Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change."

- Psalm 46:1

Foundation

Since we are at the end of our 5-year Foundation drive, I would like to bring you up to date on this very successful project. As you recall, our goal was to increase the fund to \$2 million to ensure that our church would be maintained in perpetuity. Through your generosity, our goal was attained a year ahead of schedule.

To date, the numbers are: investments: \$927,059, pledges: \$238,836, Legacy intent gifts: \$1,120,000. Our contributions this year are \$3,340 from 10 donors. Since inception, the Foundation has provided over \$500,000 in improvements to our church. To put that into perspective, the Foundation's improvements equals approximately 130% of our church's annual budget.

Even though we have achieved our goal, please keep the foundation in mind as you consider your charitable giving for 2020 and beyond. In a time when many churches are struggling, your contributions have been exceptional and are much appreciated. Your actions demonstrate how important our church is to all of us.

Bob Holcomb, Foundation President



During these trying times our mountain community needs to come together (remember social distancing) more than ever. We know that many people may need assistance in getting things such as supplies, groceries, medicine, and transportation. Others want desperately to do *something* to help.

Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center (EPNRC) has set up a *Caring During COVID-19* webpage/database for Estes Valley. Here people can easily find where to find support, list their needs, and volunteer to help. One central location for this information seems like the best way to make sure everyone in Estes Valley is cared for.

Of course, if you need help you can contact your new Shepherd Connection elder or deacon (details on the front page of this newsletter), Pastor Michael, or call the church office. All the information you need can be found on EPNRC's website (<https://www.epnrc.org>).

Session Highlights ~ February 2020

- ◇ Voted to receive into PCCR membership Bill and Marianne Solms by transfer of membership.
- ◇ Approved Lisa Plaut as chairperson of Mission and Outreach committee; Verlene Thorp as a member of the Columbarium committee; and Mike Warren as a member of Finance and Stewardship committee and of the PCCR Foundation.
- ◇ Elected Kent Meyer and Mike Warren as commissioners to the February Presbytery meeting.
- ◇ Heard from Bob Holcomb that additional pledges have been received which will help reduce the projected budget deficit. He noted that we need to keep up the good work.
- ◇ Scheduled the Palm Sunday brunch for April 5 and May 31 for the Foundation celebration.
- ◇ Noted that there is a new PCCR Guest WIFI password: PCCRGUEST
- ◇ Received a report from Building and Grounds regarding the following items: a new dumpster will soon be in place in the lower parking lot to help with refuse removal; the sanctuary heating problems are being addressed; the committee is embarking on an evaluation of the heating system design and valve status; options for the roofing are being explored; and due to a generous donation, the committee is considering purchase of hi-res video security cameras.
- ◇ Heard from Peter Plaut that the Communications committee needs additional members. Contact Peter or Terry in the office if you would be willing to serve.
- ◇ Expressed appreciation for Terry's work on the newsletter each month and to Peter Plaut for his work on the web site. Both the newsletter and the web site are critical to communicating with the PCCR family.



Session Highlights ~ March 2020

Pastor Michael opened a special meeting of Session with prayer in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 14 to discuss the recommendations from Presbytery regarding church activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting with Session as advisors were Drs. John Cooper and Mark Richards, and Sandy Lindberg, RN, FCN.

Pastor Michael reported that the entire town has essentially shut down and that the schools are closed. It was quickly determined that we should discontinue normal operations. The question then became "how to take care of our congregation?"

A calling tree is being set up and each Deacon and Elder will have a list of names to call periodically. In this way we can check on everyone and be sure they are doing well. We will also be prepared to offer assistance with shopping for food and pharmaceutical supplies.

The website (pccrusa.org) will continue to be a good source of information. A team is working to set up at least audio, and hopefully also video, capabilities so that individuals can hear/see the Pastor's sermons and participate in Lenten services.

A motion was passed to continue to pay our employees as usual.

A motion was passed to cancel the Palm Sunday brunch.

A motion was passed to cancel all worship services, committee meetings and other activities, as well as outside groups using the building. The situation will be revisited every two weeks until it is safe to resume normal activities.

Pastor Michael said that summer residents of Estes Park would be notified of these actions.

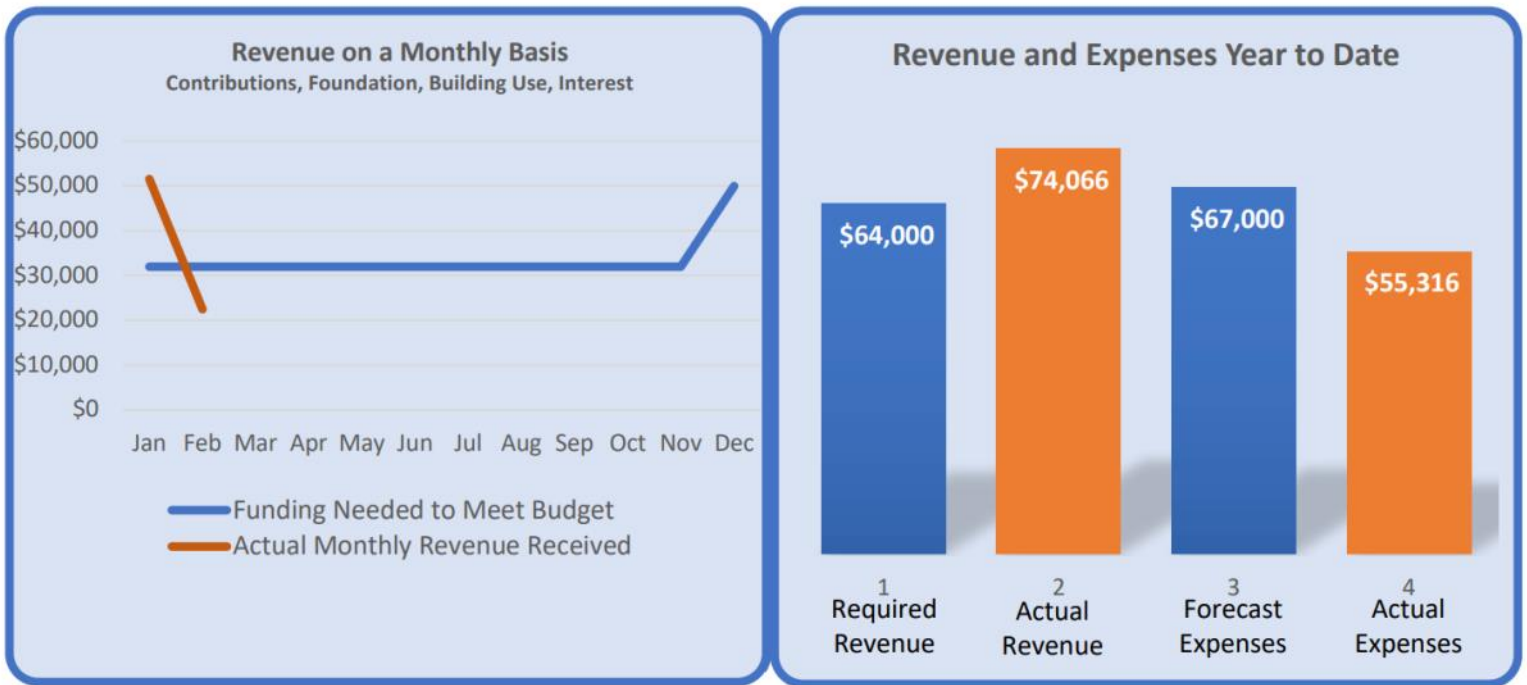
Pastor Michael thanked everyone for their help during this difficult time.

Bob H. moved to adjourn.

Pastor Michael closed the meeting with prayer.

The regular Session meeting for March was cancelled.

2020 Financial Picture – Data Through February



This is the financial summary with data through February. 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), and reflects the volatility typically seen from month to month.

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 average expenditures with actual spending. At this moment, actual revenue received is greater than the requirement, and actual expenses are lower than the projection.

Deacon Highlights ~ March 2020

- ◇ Carolyn Kramer opened the meeting and welcomed the members who came despite the threats of the virus which is changing our daily lives.
- ◇ Pastor Michael gave an opening prayer.
- ◇ Judy Schaffer gave a devotion from the book *Hope* by Dr. Barry Johnson.
- ◇ Judy Portman distributed the minutes from the last meeting of the session and outlined several items.
- ◇ Carolyn Kramer distributed the financial report from Carolyn Hull, which had not changed much in the last month.
- ◇ Joys and concerns were shared. We will continue to send cards to members as we know special needs.
- ◇ There were no memorial receptions or meals sent in the last month.
- ◇ At the Good Samaritan communion on February 24 there were 10 residents and 5 PCCR members attending.
- ◇ There was discussion about how to handle communion for the worship service with the changes we must make to keep people safe. Assignments were reviewed for preparing the elements and Pastor Michael will be serving them. (This was before the stricter protocols for the church were in effect.)
- ◇ Under old business there was a discussion about ordering some new large tablecloths.
- ◇ In new business Marilyn Irwin invited the Deacons to a program hosted by the Stephen Ministers to be given by Dr. Nicole Taylor Irwin on April 14. She will present ideas of how to talk to people facing death or with a cancer diagnosis. Members of the session will also be invited. (This may also change with the safety protocols.)
- ◇ Judy Schaffer gave a closing prayer.

Welcome to Our Virtual Broadcast Studio!

This is the PCCR Chapel/Studio where we are broadcasting our Sunday and Wednesday evening services. Flexibility is key as we navigate the new reality that COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) has brought us.

Many thanks to the team who has helped put this together and make it a reality. Our hope is that seeing this little bit of familiarity (along with the Fellowship Hall mural for our Sunday morning fellowship virtual gathering) will bring some comfort as we continue to be the church during these unusual times.



A prayer offered by Rev. Dana Hughes for the congregations
and church leaders of Denver Presbytery. Shared with permission.

God of all Grace,
we don't doubt that you are with us in the midst of this crisis,
but we worry about ---
 what tomorrow will bring
 who will suffer
 how we will manage
 when this will be over,
and we wonder if we're going around a bend that leads
to rapids or still water.
In your mercy, Dear Lord,
swaddle us with your abiding presence
and keep us from flailing.
Rock us in your holy arms and calm us
so we may breathe
and believe that you are always here
though we cannot gather in your name. Amen.



SPECIAL OFFERING

*Our Lord has written the
promise of the resurrection,
not in books alone,
but in every leaf in spring-time.*

~ Martín Luther

