



Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies

## September 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 9

### Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee has been working with our wonderful staff to provide live, in-person worship in the safety of the out-of-doors. We provided one Wednesday evening vespers service led by Pastor Moore in July, which allowed us to see him in-person one last time before he left for his new call in Georgia. During this service, we were able to hear Larry Gillum on the organ and piano (both at once!) being broadcast to us in the parking lot. After Pastor Michael left, Patti Dolezal took on the role of hosting our Zoom worship services on Sundays, using the recordings that he provided.

Patti Dolezal and Rich Dixon also organized worship services on Thursday mornings that were held in the safety of our parking lot. These services provided meaningful worship while helping us prepare for in-person/Zoom worship services starting Sunday, September 6. We are working with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to have the proper sound and video equipment to offer both in-person and virtual services. Rev. Bruce Brackman will be our supply pastor during September.



Meanwhile, we are preparing for bringing worship safely back into our sanctuary. Larimer County has health regulations that will limit the number of members that can attend worship in the sanctuary. We also intend to continue virtual services for those who cannot attend in person. We will send more information to the congregation as we continue our planning for in-door worship.

## 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

### Church Staff

**Pulpit Supply and Pastoral Care:**  
Rev. Bruce Brackman

**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 October Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 15. Please send your pictures and stories to Terry Brigham at: [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org) Thanks!**

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## Sunday Worship Schedule

**September 6 — 10:00 am, Communion**

**September 13, 20, 27 — 10:00 am**

**Rev. Bruce Brackman** will be preaching and **Patti Dolezal** will be the liturgist for the month of September.

**Outdoor Worship:** Worship is planned outdoors for as long as the weather allows. The Worship and Music Committee is working on a contingency plan in case of inclement weather. Bring a lawn chair, wear a face mask, and observe social distancing by sitting 6 feet apart from one another. If you prefer, you may remain in your car; the sound will project well. Worship in the Sanctuary will resume once it is deemed safe to do so, following strict state and county guidelines.

**Virtual Worship:** For those of you who may rather worship virtually, 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: The location of worship each Sunday is subject to change, based on weather and state and county guidelines. The Worship and Music Committee is working on the logistics of holding an outdoor service as well as a virtual service, either at the same time or recorded for later viewing. Once details have been determined, information will be sent to the Congregation via email, by postal mail to those without computer access, and will be posted at the church entrance and on the website. We will do our best to keep everyone updated as decisions are made.*

## Church Office Reopening

The church building and office will reopen on **September 1** under the guidelines of the State of Colorado and Larimer County. The building will be **open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. All entering the building must be wearing a mask and maintain proper social distance. Please do not come to the church if you have experienced any symptoms of COVID or are not feeling well. The church will be maintaining a log of all visitors to the church each day so be prepared to leave your name and a phone number.

Under current guidelines, no groups of more than 10 are allowed to gather other than for worship services. The church is currently developing guidelines for church committees to meet at the church. Those guidelines for church meetings will be available soon.

September 2020

Dear PCCR family,

From the bottom of our hearts we wish to thank you all for the outpouring of gifts and good wishes as we left Estes Park for our new adventure in Georgia. It was difficult to leave our congregation and community. Please know that each of you remains in our prayers and hearts.

Grace and Peace,  
Denise and Michael

thank you!

### Staying Connected!



There's no doubt about it. We have all been feeling alone and cut off from one another, forced into social isolation due to the global pandemic. And to make matters worse, there does not seem to be an end in sight. We have new rules and requirements to follow, most of which are very uncomfortable and not always easy to understand. Throughout this turbulent time, we must reach out to one another and stay connected. We can do this through a phone call, an email, or a handwritten card in the mail, and possibly a visit outside at a safe distance.

Some of us are better at reaching out than others. If you know of anyone who may be alone or lonely or overlooked during this time when a hug, hand holding, or a visit are most needed — or maybe YOU feel that way and need someone — then **please call (970-586-4404) or email (office@pccrusa.org) the church office.**

### Pastoral Care



**Rev. Bruce Brackman** will be available for any pastoral care needs during this time of transition. Rev. Brackman can be reached at 816-520-1825, or by email, [brucebrackman@gmail.com](mailto:brucebrackman@gmail.com).



Another way to greet one another In American Sign Language is using the sign for "I love you". Maybe we can use it in addition to virtual hugs and fist bumps during our parking lot worship.

i l y ILY sign

### A Look at Malawi

Cheryl Barnes is a PCUSA mission co-worker in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe working specifically on education issues. She has been there about two years and is sheltering in place during the pandemic. The following link shows a video that vividly portrays what Malawi really is like, and for about 8 minutes you will be immersed in the sights and sounds: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wj7NDjZ0mjGY\\_tgLHqx8u2VGBuipV9y8/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wj7NDjZ0mjGY_tgLHqx8u2VGBuipV9y8/view)

(Email Carol Nussbaumer, [carol@nussbaumers.net](mailto:carol@nussbaumers.net), if you are unable to connect to the video.)

## Interim Pastor Search

Session has voted to conduct a search for an interim pastor to lead us through this transition time between Pastor Michael leaving and the arrival of a new pastor. The search for a new pastor can take a year or even more, so it is important to have an interim pastor who can conduct the normal business of PCCR during this time.

At its August 17 meeting, Session elected **Sylvia Adams, Nancy Almond, Barb Cole, Bob Holcomb** and **Robert Sherrod** to serve on the **Interim Pastor Search Committee**. Bob and Barb were elected as co-chairs, a position they also filled seven years ago when we were searching for a new pastor at that time.

Presbytery has been contacted to assist our search. They will provide a list of names of pastors in the area who are available for interim positions. We will also advertise in denominational publications that circulate across the country. Word-of-mouth is also a good way to learn of someone who might serve as an interim, so if you know of a possible candidate, please contact a member of the committee to let them know.

The committee will provide periodic updates on its progress through the newsletter and announcements at worship services.

## 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.

## The Membership and Hospitality Committee is Happy to Announce:

In Jerome Robbin's and Stephen Sondheim's famous musical West Side Story, the character, Tony, sings:

*"Could be, who knows?  
There's something due any day, I will know right away  
Soon as it shows.  
Who knows?  
It's only just out of reach.  
Down the block, on a beach, under a tree.  
I got a feeling there's a miracle due, gonna come true, comin' to me.  
Could it be, yes, it could.  
Something's comin' something good.  
If we can wait...."*

Well, PCCR friends...the Membership and Hospitality Committee has gotten approval from Session to have a distanced/masked event as the concluding portion of our outdoor church service on **Sunday, September 13**. We can tell you it will be out of doors and will serve as our Fellowship Hour. When we have more details, we will be sending an email to all of our PCCR members so that we can actually have some fun...like we used to before Covid. Plan now to bring your lawn chairs; we'll stay distanced but we'll be together....Finally!!!!



So mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 13** and plan on enjoying some time together at the end of the service....like it used to be.

## Outdoor Worship Services



## News from the Finance Committee is Sensational

Through the month of July, we are 58% through the year and our revenue is only \$7,000 under budget and our expenses are \$20,000 under budget. Of course, much of the expense savings are the result of the church shut down due to COVID-19. and the resignation of Pastor Michael. These factors, plus the stimulus monies to cover salaries and other expenses, should result in substantially better performance than our budgeted loss of \$55,000.

In dollar terms, our church investments are approximately \$400,000 and our Foundation assets are approximately \$1,000,000. These assets, plus the Safeway account and columbarium account, total church assets are approximately \$1.5 million.

Although the above numbers are impressive, more impressive is the actions of our members during this very difficult time. While under stay-at-home orders and increased rates of financial hardship, each of you have continued to support the church as a priority. Even as we are all anxious to return to normal times and see our friends on a regular basis, it could be very easy to put our church obligation on the back burner and be "out of sight, out of mind." Rest assured, your leadership is working very hard to assure that we all have a vibrant church to return to when the pandemic is over and we all are safe. Many churches are voicing concerns over what kind of church, if any, they will have to return to in the future. Your continued support speaks volumes that we will emerge as a strong church that will be able to attract a dynamic pastor to carry us into the future.

Congratulations on a job well done.

*Bob Holcomb*

*Chairperson, Finance Committee*

## Session Highlights ~ August 2020

- ◇ Directed the Health Advisory Team, Worship and Music committee, and Building and Grounds committee to create plan for safely opening the building for in-person worship and small group meetings on September 1.
- ◇ Noted that PCCR has applied for a \$500 grant from Presbytery for technology expansion.
- ◇ Learned that Highlands Camp has burned its mortgage!
- ◇ Approved Personnel Policies and Procedures document.
- ◇ Noted that coffee sales continue; contact Lisa Plaut to order.
- ◇ Approved hiring Rev. Bruce Brackman as pulpit supply for the month of September.
- ◇ Learned from Building and Grounds that the Columbarium road has been improved; air flow in the sanctuary and fellowship hall is being upgraded; sound system has been upgraded; and work is progressing to provide audio-visual service to Fellowship Hall.
- ◇ Appointed Sylvia Adams, Nancy Almond, Barb Cole, Bob Holcomb, and Robert Sherrod to serve as the Interim Pastor Search Committee. Approved Barb and Bob to serve as co-chairs.
- ◇ Held a lengthy discussion regarding opening the building for members/staff/outside groups.
- ◇ Approved a motion to open the church facility on September 1 for regular office hours Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◇ Approved a motion to keep the church building closed for outside group use until at least January 2021.
- ◇ Approved a motion to allow the Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center to resume normal operations on September 1 with a maximum meeting limit of 10 people and subject to social distancing.
- ◇ Approved a motion to require every individual entering the PCCR building to provide personal contact information for Covid contact tracing.
- ◇ Approved a motion to request a variance from Larimer County for Session, Bell Ensembles, scriptural study groups and committees of greater than 10 to meet in Fellowship Hall in the sanctuary or fellowship hall.
- ◇ Approved a motion to begin on September 6 holding in-person worship services that meet the criteria of Larimer County guidelines.

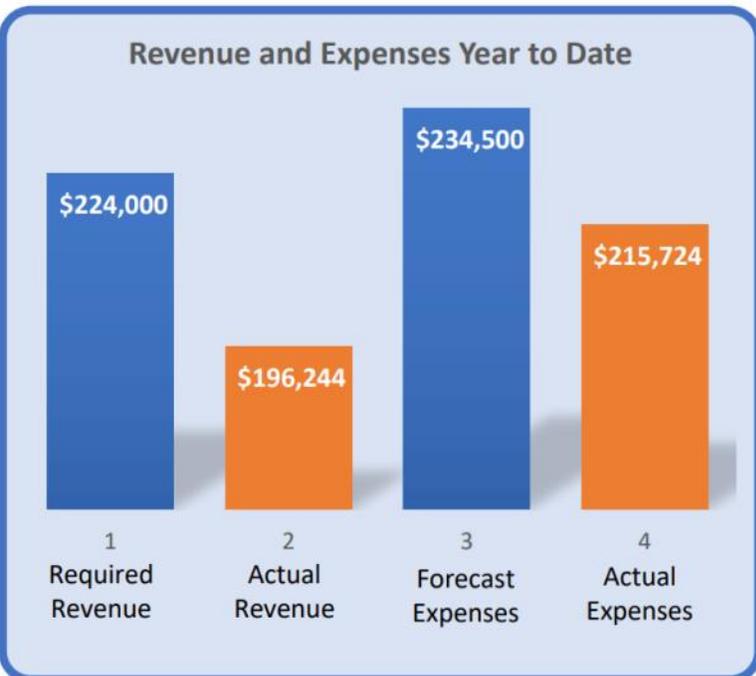
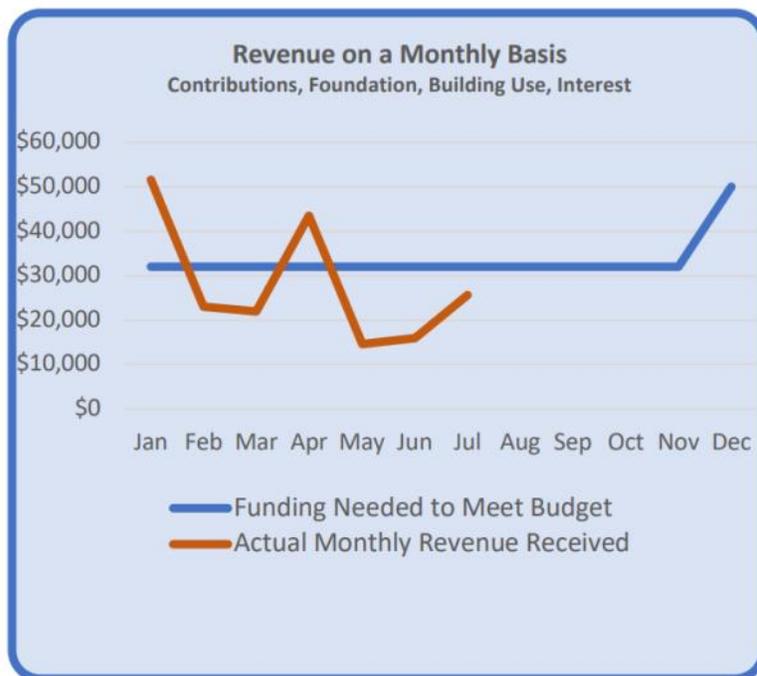


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## Deacon Highlights ~ August 2020

- ◇ Carolyn Kramer, co-moderator, opened the meeting with a prayer.
- ◇ Judy Portman reported on items from the last Session meetings. Discussion centered around plans of how to open the church for worship and/or meetings.
- ◇ There were few joys and concerns. Harriet Irwin continues to mail cards to those on the prayer list.
- ◇ The Sunshine Committee took one meal to a member who had surgery and flowers were taken to another member who also had surgery.
- ◇ With no communion or memorial services at the church, the Deacons have very little business.
- ◇ Carolyn will ask Session about the possibility of having Deacon meetings outside at the church.
- ◇ Judy Schaffer and Marilyn Irwin volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. Verlene Thorp will serve as an at-large member.
- ◇ Judy Schaffer ended the meeting with prayers helpful in this confusing and complicated time.

## 2020 Financial Picture – Data Through July



This is the financial summary with data through July. 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 July is below the target. Given the impact of the pandemic on all our lives, this understandable, although it puts us about \$28,000 below the pre-virus expectation for this time of the year. As noted to the right, we are also spending less than in a normal year and have received a forgivable Paycheck Protection Loan that should compensate for the lower revenues from contributions.

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 the normal budget, expenses are also running below the amount forecasted for this time in the year. The gap between actual revenues and actual expenses is a current deficit of approximately \$19,000. However, we received a Paycheck Protection Program loan, which should be forgiven under the government program, that will make up the difference. Additionally, beginning in September the pastor position will be vacant, which will result in lower expenses until we are able to hire an interim pastor. The overall financial picture for 2020 thus looks encouraging.



### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is indeed active and functioning during this pandemic! Even though contacts are a bit nontraditional as we try to accommodate care receivers while keeping them and the Stephen Ministers safe. Telecare has become a major form of communication along with Zoom and social distancing in a park, back yard or someone’s spacious kitchen. Much depends on the comfort level of the Care Receiver and the Stephen Minister. Referrals are encouraged especially in this time of isolation, fear and confusion. Be assured we are still in the spirit of Stephen Ministry.

Call the church office 586-4404, Dona Cooper 586-9458, Chuck Slicker 586-8525, or Ginger Wilkinson 586-5275, if you have questions about a Stephen Ministry or know of someone you think would benefit from this ministry. Stay well and stay safe!

## Presbyterian Women (PW) Join Together for Bible Study with Two Events in September



The aspen are starting to turn golden and word has it that the bull elk are beginning to practice their bugling. While these are typical indicators of the Fall season, there is nothing typical about September of 2020. Another indicator of Fall for Presbyterian Women (all women of the Presbyterian church) is the coming together in a group to launch the new Horizon's Bible study with a brunch sponsored by the PW Board. While we cannot come together physically in a group this September, let's join together on Zoom. Pat Waltermire has graciously agreed to lead both the overview of our newest Bible study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, on **Monday September 14 at 12 noon**. We are grateful that she has also agreed to lead the first Circle meeting on **Monday, September 21, at 12 noon**. The Zoom invitations for these two meetings appear below.

The Bible study books are currently available for \$10 each by contacting either Karen Daugherty (312-810-3671 or [jk@daughertys.us](mailto:jk@daughertys.us)) or Renee Warren (309-531-7902 or [reneesplace@comcast.net](mailto:reneesplace@comcast.net)). Together we can determine the best way to deliver the book to you, either via mail or some other form of delivery.

This is the perfect time for those who have not been able to join in on the Bible study in other years, to do so this year while it is held online via Zoom. You can log into each session from the comfort of your home either via computer or phone. Staying connected during this time of isolation and quarantine is so very important. We sincerely hope you will join us as we work together to find hope and peace through this Bible study, *Into the Light*.

### Fall Kick-off Meeting — PW Bible Study Monday, September 14, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87269898437>

Meeting ID: 872 6989 8437

Passcode: 80517

Or Dial by telephone: (Meeting ID: 872 6989 8437)

+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 September Circle Meeting Monday, September 21, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Join 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:

Sep. 21, 2020 12:00 pm	Nov. 16, 2020 12:00 pm
Oct. 19, 2020 12:00 pm	Dec. 21, 2020 12:00 pm



*"For five years it has been our honor to serve alongside of the members and friends of Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. We are thankful for the opportunities to serve the church and community with you in Christ's love. Our prayer is that you will continue to serve the Lord in this community and be a beacon of Christ's love for all to see and experience.*

***May the peace of the Lord go with you, wherever He may send you. May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you. May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors."***