



During the recent snow we took the tent top down to keep it from being damaged from the weight of the ice. That meant that I could open my office window without the glaring reflection of the sun beaming into my office. I'll be the first to name that the tent wasn't my favorite initially. At first all I could see was that it was dark underneath it, it was big, and it blocked my beautiful view of the bell tower. Then it all changed. It took one event under it, and I was convinced we wouldn't know what to do without it.

Because of the tent my ordination reception was had outside, made beautiful, with lots of love and care. We had many outdoor services outside. We were able to gather safely and worship, because of the tent. VBS was able to be had under the tent, where we did crafts, sang songs, did science experiments, and played. The tent gave us an experience and reminder that

faith is fun. We remembered the life of members we loved so dearly, it felt like a hug. We gathered for Advent meals, where we got to catch up with each other and be a part of each other's lives. HCY meets under their weekly, where we catch up, eat, and learn about our faith.

Ya see, the tent has done so much for us. The tent gave us a safe place to gather when we didn't know where else to go. In a time where we have been challenged by how to safely connect with community, we have and been living into the promises we make a baptism. One of our baptismal promises is to live among God's faithful people, and the tent allowed us to do that. The tent allowed us to gather as children of God, wet people in the world to love and be in community. We came together to worship, learn, and celebrate. It's a reminder that the church isn't the building, it's God's faithful people. Now when I think of the tent, I think of a holy place where we get to experience God's love, grace, and action.

Deacon Beka Forst



Faithful Families Tip– God's Promises

Faithful Families Tip- Spontaneous Worship

- Children learn parts of the liturgy easily during worship by listening. Notice pieces that your child enjoys and try using them during the week. You don't have to have the gift of singing



February Newsletter

"I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you." ~Psalm 71:6

Worship Opportunities for February

- Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.
- Each 10:30 am service is livestreamed on the website and transmitted to the parking lot over the radio and communion is served to those present.

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Beka Forst, *Deacon of Discipleship*
Sandra Askey, *Office Manager*



Church Office Hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 am-2:00 pm

Music Notes

From Greg Cline

During our upcoming season of Lent we will be using what has become a traditional liturgy at Holy Comforter entitled, *Holden Evening Prayer*.

This setting is written by Marty Haugen, who composed the "*Now the Feast and Celebration*" liturgy which we utilize in worship once a month.

We extend an invitation to youth in grade 4 - 12 to participate in a handbell ensemble in which they would be accompanying the liturgy for this service.

We need to hear a response by February 7 to see if we have a minimum number to support an ensemble.

Listed below is detail of rehearsal and worship schedule.

Contact Greg Cline @ 704-860-4460.

Holden Evening Prayer Services

Wednesdays, March 9 - April 6

5:30 Warm up each week.

6:00 Meal

6:45 Service

Three initial session rehearsals would be needed to secure accompaniment goals:

Wednesdays @ 6:00 Feb 16

Feb 23

March 2

Our church choir and chamber choir continue to rehearse on a weekly basis. Due to a resurgence of Covid concerns these ensembles have relocated rehearsals back to the fellowship hall where a bit more distancing can be accomplished.

This is of course a temporary move and when numbers fall within safer parameters we will utilize our choir rehearsal room again. The adult handbell choir will continue rehearsing in the balcony. Due to the setup of handbell equipment, we have fewer options; But since ringing is not singing, we feel safe enough to continue in this manner.

I am personally so thankful to be singing as a choir and congregation again. I have publicly stated to the choir that I long for the Sunday when we can have a mask burning.

I fully support masking in corporate worship, as opposed to having to resort once again to Virtual worship or limited to parking lot gatherings only.

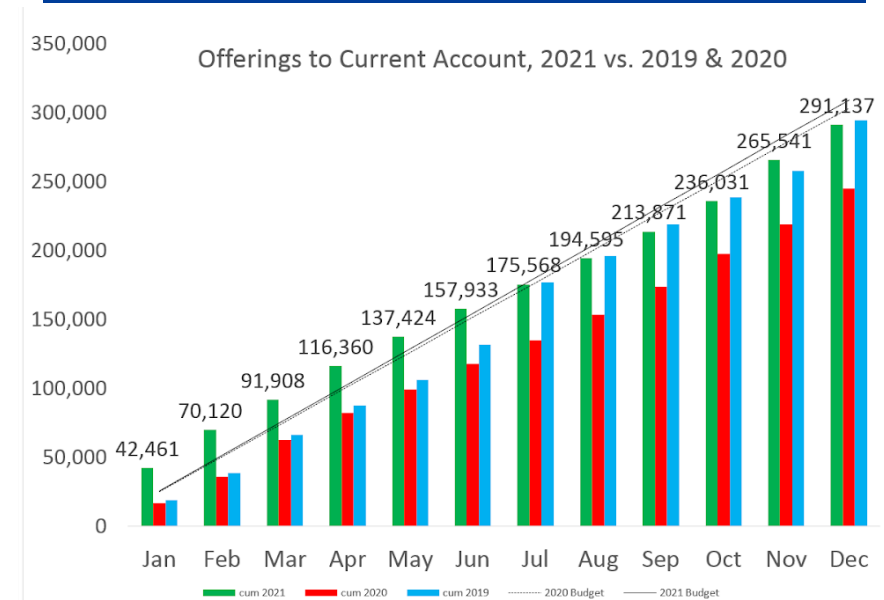
Together, and with the help of God, we will emerge through what remains of this pandemic.

~ Greg Cline



We would like your help! Each Sunday this person will be here for the Sunday school and Worship hour, 9:15 am-12:00 pm. If you know of anyone who would be interested in working in the nursery with our littles or you need more information please reach out to Beka.

Holy Comforter Treasurer Report



Treasurer's Report for December 2021

Holy Comforter's operating surplus (offering income in excess of expenses) during December was \$432.25. The year-to-date surplus, through December 31, was \$2,666.41. Year-to-date spending, largely reflective of the unfilled office secretary position for a portion of the year, was \$20,733.28 below the amount planned in the 2021 budget. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses during December was \$25,596.60. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month during 2021 was \$25,281.08. The adjacent chart compares 2021 offering income, by month, with that of the two previous years. The 2021 and 2020 years' budget tracks are also presented in the graph. ~Warren Heller

The schedule below is our expected weekly programs and meetings. When exceptions happen they will be posted on the website calendar and in weekly emails.

Sundays:

- 9:30 am– Sunday School
- 10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm-HCY (*First three Sundays*)
- 5:00pm– Discipleship Academy (*Fourth Sunday*)
- 5:00 pm-Handbells
- 6:00 pm-Church Choir

*Service livestreamed on website and transmitted by radio to parking lot.

Tuesdays:

- 7:00 pm- Nar-Anon

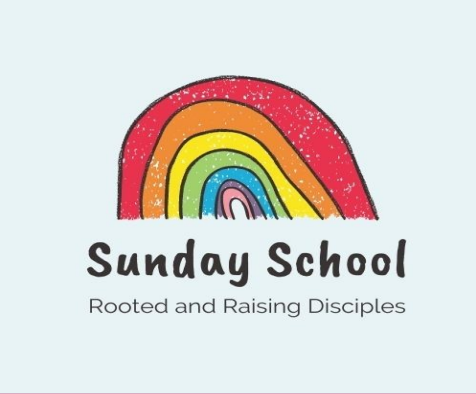
Wednesdays:

- 4:00 pm- Adult Faith Formation afternoon video
- 7:00 pm– Chamber Choir

Events to Note:

- Prime Timers– February 10th 10:30am.
- Outreach Committee Meeting– February 17th 7pm

**HCY meets the first three Sundays, Discipleship Academy meets the last Sunday of the month.*



Teachers are needed to help execute our plan for growing faith in our kids and adults alike. This is a great opportunity to meet and interact with the young people that help make up our vibrant faith family. We hope that you will prayerfully consider serving as a Sunday School teacher this year. **For more information, contact Jill Cassel or Beka Forst.**

Shout out to our new teachers this year, Katie Piscatelli, Rianna Nance, and Brittany Lewis! We are so thankful for your willingness to serve and share your gifts!



Discipleship Academy is for anyone!!

This credit will explore different passages with diverse images of God, where pronouns of God come from, and what does that mean. This is a one credit, elective course. Join us on February 27th at 5pm for this class.

For more information please contact Beka Forst or Pastor Micah.



February Birthdays

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of February. We are thankful for the Life and Spirit of those we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.

February 2	Allie Flusche
February 4	Scott Carr
February 7	Susan Nelson
February 8	Chris Hullander
	Scott Zander
February 9	Shelia Kelly
February 10	Jack Howard
February 14	Will Howard
	Noah Rawlins
February 15	Leslie Crist
	Ressa Wilson
	Chase Doctor
February 16	Rochelle Potter
February 22	Marc Cox

If we have unintentionally left any member's name off the birthday list, or if there are any errors, please call the church office.

Thank you.



Grace and Peace,

This pandemic has affected us in many more ways than we could ever imagine. The psychological toll of it will be felt potentially for generations. For comparison, can you point to behaviors passed down in your family by folks who lived during the great depression? I think one of the many challenges that we have wrestled with during this time has been that there are, at times, two things that we consider good that are competing with each other. Joining together in worship and fellowship with one another is good, central to who we are as followers of Christ. Spending time with friends and family is good, it is life-giving, in many ways what we were made for. Eating out at restaurants is fun and also puts money into small businesses and local economies. Caring for our mental health is very important, and often that includes activities with other people. At the same time, not spreading a virus to our vulnerable family members is also good. On a societal level, so is limiting spread so that others we don't know won't get sick, and especially so hospitals are not overwhelmed and people die not only from Covid, but because there are only so many care resources to go around.

The pandemic has forced us to make decisions between multiple things that are good. I think that tension is something that has caused a fair amount of angst within ourselves in this time. It isn't a clear "good vs. evil," though we don't always get that one right either. Often there are ways that our choices aren't all or nothing, like eating outside at restaurants or ordering out, meeting with friends or family outside when the weather allows, or wearing masks around folks and in places like worship to lower the risk of spread. But sometimes it means making hard choices between two things that are, at their core, good. And we're tired of making those choices. We're tired of the things that have brought us joy being lesser versions of themselves. We're tired of distance between ourselves and those we love. We're tired of having to read statistics, weigh the risks, miss our friends, wear masks, put off travel plans, etc.

And yet this is the time to which we are called to be the body of Christ to the world, and to do that faithfully means that we don't get to simply ignore our responsibility to care for our neighbors (and enemies!). We have to take care of ourselves, absolutely, physically, mentally, and spiritually, and engage in things that are life-giving for us. I urge you to develop practices of self-care if you haven't already, even Jesus looked for time of solitude and rest, but we do this as a way to equip ourselves to better care for others, not as a way to ignore the needs and concerns of others for our own gain.

I am holding to hope that we will soon move out of the crisis phase of Covid when it doesn't threaten lives in nearly the same way, nor overwhelm health systems. The weight that we've carried, the grief that we've endured, are not in line with the peace or shalom that God wants for us, and I believe God is at work to heal them and bring relief to our weariness. In the meantime, may we be given endurance as we work to have Christ's call to love our neighbor be a guiding force in the choices we make.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah



Prime Timers Bible Study

Our Prime Timers group, those of retirement age and up, will gather again for Bible Study in person on **Thursday, February 10th at 10:30am**. We will meet at the church in the fellowship hall. We will be looking at the gospel of Luke 6: 17-26. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!