

Beka's
Buzz



GROWING
FAITHFUL
FAMILIES



Faithful Families Tip— Musical Bath Time!

During Bath time, try to sing this song to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus washed your sins away
On your blessed baptismal day.
In the bath I wash you too
And remind you God loves you,
Yes, you are baptized,
Yes, you are baptized,
Yes, you are baptized, and God’s love is with you.



The
Holy Comforter
Comment

May Newsletter

“The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.” ~Psalm 148:13

Worship Opportunities for May

- 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.

216 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012

Phone: 704-825-2483
Email: holycomforter@gmail.com
Micah Kearney, *Pastor*
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Greg Cline, *Organist /Choirmaster*
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

A musical tradition for nearly 70 years is Music Week at Lutheridge, our nearest camp and conference center; just 100 miles away. This year will be a full schedule which features clinicians throughout the United States who conduct hundreds of pilgrims of all ages. Many of us know that, through generous benefactors, Holy Comforter offers through our music fund a 50% scholarship to our membership who wish to attend music week. Check out the Lutheridge web site for details. Contact Greg Cline if you know of anyone who would like to take advantage of this opportunity. Scholarships are awarded upon completion of camp week which this year is July 10 - 16.

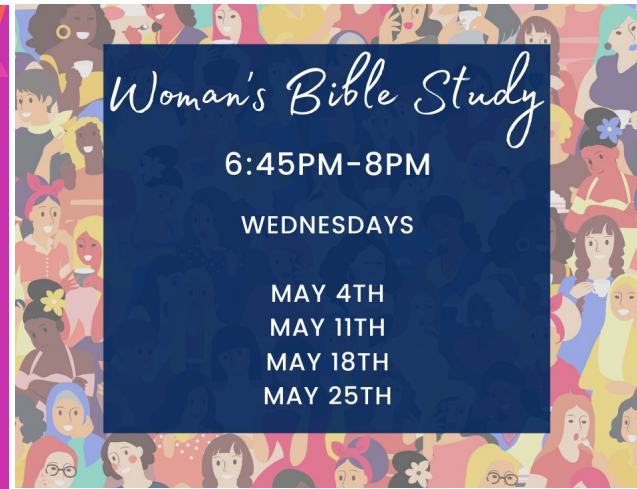


Our choral choirs will be rehearsing in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings during the month of May from 9:50 - 10:25 A.M. For those arriving early for worship you may overhear us making more than just a joyful noise. We begin live stream broadcasts approximately 5 minutes prior to our 10:30 services of worship.



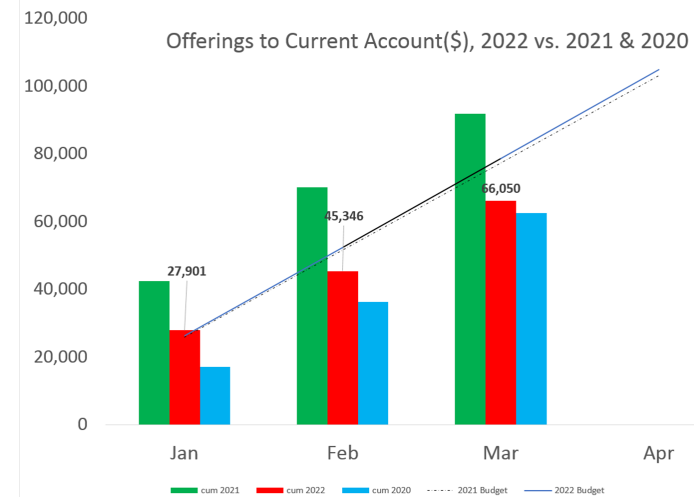
Many words of thanks to all of our choirs for their leadership through the Easter Service and Season. I think that attendance at the Sunrise as well as 10:30 service of worship on Easter Sunday exceeded even staff expectations. What pure joy it was to not only see faces (many due to masks) that I had not witnessed in over two years. As I have stated on other occasions there is no greater ministry to me than to hear congregational singing as did occur on Easter Sunday. All of your voices ministered to me on a very personal level.

We are so very blessed in this congregational family, not just because we worship in an award winning architectural structure, with a world class pipe organ to lead the assembly in song accompanied by a great choir. We are blessed to know our God who died and rose for us, and all of creation. After all, that is why we sing all those "ALLELUIAS" on Sunday. It is a continual joy to share this "Good News" by your side on a weekly basis. Blessings!
~ Greg Cline



Prime Timers Bible Study

Our Prime Timers group, those of retirement age and up, will gather again for Bible Study in person on **Thursday, May 12th at 10:30am**. We will meet at the church in the fellowship hall. We will be looking at the gospel of **Luke**. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!



Treasurer's Report for March 2022

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during March was \$4,046.54. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$20,704.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2022 is \$26,222.00. The year-to-date deficit, through March 31, was \$3,941.13. Year-to-date spending was \$8,674.87 below the amount planned in the 2022 budget. The adjacent chart compares this year's offering income, by month, with that of the two previous years. This and last year's 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:**
Sunday School has been temporarily paused!
Check with Beka for more info!

9:50 am– Church & Chamber Choir
10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary
5:00pm– Discipleship Academy (*Fourth Sunday*)
**Service livestreamed on website and trans-mitted by radio to parking lot.*

- Tuesdays:**
7:00 pm- Nar-Anon
- Wednesdays:**
4:00 pm- Adult Faith Formation afternoon vid-eo

Events to Note:

- Final Feast– HCY & Kids Club meet together for fun! 5pm
- Prime Timers– May 12th 10:30am.
- Movie on the Lawn– 8pm– May 13th



Discipleship Academy

Students will be introduced to the topics of Sex, Alcohol, & Drugs. We'll talk about how the church approaches each of these topics, as well as the shortcomings and failures the church has had around these topics. Parents are encouraged to participate. This is a one credit, elective course.



May 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.

May 1	Katie Howard
	Philip Piscatelli
May 2	Lucy Bocchino
May 3	Erin Cassel
May 4	Dariel Rogers
May 5	Tom Bocchino
May 7	Alec Via
May 8	Madeline Hogge
May 10	Zac Hullander
May 13	Rebekah Milton
May 22	Cynthia Scholler
May 24	Perri Gross
	Denise Taylor
May 26	Matthew Hogge
May 29	Angela Morton

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.



Outreach Committee Meeting

Join Outreach on May 19th at 7pm, in the fellowship hall.
For more information contact Brittany Lewis.



FROM THE PASTOR

Eight years ago now, when I was interviewing with the call committee that eventually brought me to Holy Comforter, one of the members asked me about what I thought about Sunday School and its normal time slot. I remember saying something to the effect of, “we need to be committed to faith formation, but that doesn’t mean it has to happen Sunday mornings.” For years since then our classrooms were full of kids on Sunday mornings, but with the pandemic when we tried to bring Sunday School back it never quite caught on with participants, despite a lot of work to plan, communicate, recruit leaders, and teach. It may be that the pandemic was the reason for the low turnout, either concern for spread, frustration over requiring masks, or just a general exhaustion many felt, and perhaps continue to feel.

Whatever the reason may be, Deacon Beka and I have been doing some work to think through what Faith Formation at Holy Comforter will look like after this summer. We are committed to Faith Formation for all ages that teaches foundational aspects of our faith, and, when appropriate, offers new ideas and perspectives to challenge us to grow. Our Christian Ed committee will be seeking input from you, our congregation, to hear what kind of experiences and timelines would encourage you to participate. It may be that Sunday morning continues to be the best time for folks, and we would welcome that. It may be that in a shifting world there are other times that work better, like Sunday afternoons or Wednesday evenings. We want to equip you for a life of faith as best we can.

During the pandemic, Christian Ed focused our education for kids during Children’s Church, since that was when we had the most folks present, and made that as condensed and intentional a time as we were able. We began making videos that were posted every Wednesday on YouTube and emailed out to provide some faith formation experience for adults even when not in the building. Moving forward these things may continue, but we also hope to connect adults to small groups for times of devotion, mutual support, and prayer together. We plan to offer seasonal book clubs for those who want to dive into certain topics deeper. The elementary age could see some shifts in the style of some programming to ensure they get appropriate formation as well as fun together. Our Christian Ed committee continues to put our congregation’s faith formation as a priority in our life together.

All of these things need your participation, both in sharing how your opinions on how you’d like to happen, as well as participation in the programs themselves. Our lives of faith don’t just happen at church, but they happen as we are out in the world with others. But our time together in worship, in Christian community, in prayer and devotion, in learning, form and equip us to be the people God calls us to be in every part of our lives. It is an important part of our life of faith, perhaps even more so in a world as busy as the one in which we live when our faith can slide down the list of priorities. I encourage you to find a place to take advantage of one or more faith formation opportunities we will offer, and grow deeper in faith and deeper in community with one another.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah



In our April meeting, our congregational council voted to adopt the Core Values that were developed from our time with Pastor Danielle Denise, director of evangelical mission in NC, which was opened to the congregation to engage in. From the conversations around the tables and online, and then through the work of the team that worked to take those ideas and develop them into 4 core values, we discerned the following Core Values:

Embrace: God creates a diverse and beautiful creation. We are here to be a community in which all people are seen and affirmed.

Grow: God calls us to journey in faith. We strive to build and strengthen the faith of all who are part of the Holy Comforter community.

Connect: God calls us together as a community of faith and belonging. We seek to nurture relationships and fellowship within the Holy Comforter family.

Give: God created a world of abundance. We give generously of ourselves, our time, our talent and our treasure.

These core values, as well as our new purpose statement, “*Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond,*” will be used in our strategic planning moving forward. We also encourage you all to be familiar with them, as they will give you language to talk to others about who we are as a congregation living our Christ’s call in our lives and community.