

## Beka's Buzz

I'm writing this newsletter article on the Tuesday following God's Work Our Hands Sunday, and I'm filled with a variety of thoughts and emotions. I am so incredibly grateful to have spent quality time with y'all in this special way. Serving our community is one of the best ways we can have faith forming experiences. Some of you may remember me using that phrase a lot when it came to me finishing seminary. I think one of the ways we can feel united as the Body of Christ is to share in faith forming experiences and loving our neighbors. God's Work Our Hands Sunday feels like that to me. We had groups in 5 different locations loving our neighbors by helping clean, organize, and spread kindness and hope. Our groups had people of all ages and stages, because loving our neighbor doesn't have an age requirement or limit, being a part of the body of Christ looks like all people belonging and being loved. I'm typically pretty excited about church activities, especially when it means that we get to be together. Since the pandemic I have found myself craving those experiences more because when we are all together, it feels so holy. It feels like we are a little more whole. As I reflect on GWOH

Sunday, I can't help but feel nourished by our holy wholeness. My service site was at Bunny Blessings, and our group was filled with new members and members who have been with us for years. It was holy to be together, to love our neighbors, and to be the body of Christ. It's what I prayed for. God worked on September 11th. The Spirit was active through you. When I think about our holy wholeness, I think about God's work through you and that goodness I feel is affirmation that the Body of Christ is a faith forming experience. You don't want to miss out on that goodness.

Deacon Beka, [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)



For the month of October the Discipleship Academy class will be a Prayer podcast available for the entire month. Access the podcast on our website. This is a 1 credit elective. Reflections are required to get credit. For more information, contact Deacon Beka.



### Faithful Families Tip– Everything is an offering!

Children want to participate in worship and letting them allows them to feel affirmed and valued in this worshipping community. An easy way to engage even our youngest members is allowing them to offer something to God! The offering plate isn't just for our tithes, it can be filled with pictures of how we will love our neighbor this week. It can be filled with pipe cleaner art of what "offering" means to them. Let's empower our young people to offer something to God, it's a good practice.



## October Newsletter

***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.*

Micah Kearney, *Pastor*  
Email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, *Organist /Choirmaster*

Beka Forst, *Deacon of Discipleship*

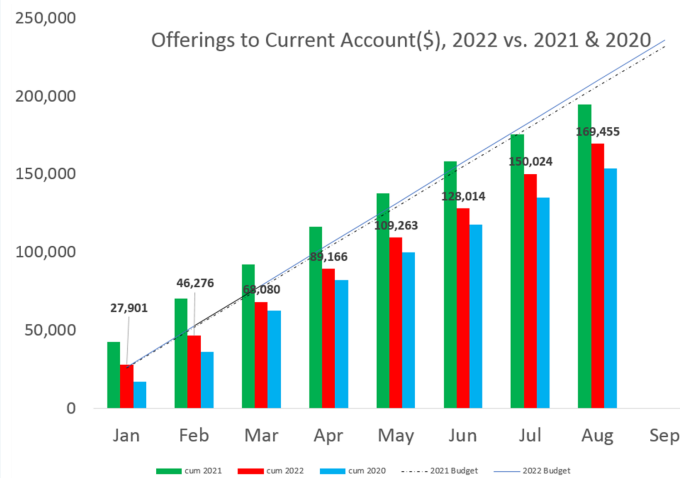
Church Office Hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 am-2:00 pm

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## Treasurer's Report for August 2022



Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during August was \$6,742.60.

Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$19,430.50. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2022 is \$26,222.00. The year-to-date deficit, through August 31, was \$23,609.58. Year-to-date spending was \$16,711.92 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:**

9:30 am - Sunday School (begins 9/18)  
10:10 am - Church & Chamber Choir  
10:30 am - Worship in Sanctuary  
5:00 pm - HCY  
5:00 pm - Adult Handbell  
6:00 pm - Church Choir

### • **Mondays:**

7:00 pm - Book Club

### • **Tuesdays:**

7:00 pm - Nar-Anon

### • **Wednesdays:**

4:00 pm - Adult Faith Formation video  
6:45 - Women's Bible Study  
7:00 - Chamber Choir

### **Events to Note:**

- ♦ Kids Club – October 9th 4 pm
- ♦ Prime Timers – October 13th 10:30 am
- ♦ Outreach – October 20th 7 pm
- ♦ Christian Ed – October 18th 7 pm
- ♦ Reformation Lunch - October 30th

## Courtyard Project Update

The painting of our church's exterior is complete and pavers are being installed. It all looks so great! During the coming weeks we'll see new landscaping and lighting added as well.

Our congregation has done an amazing job coming together to raise the funds to support our courtyard project. Over 94% of families/members have either pledged or contributed. This project, however, is a very large one and we still find ourselves a bit under \$17,000 short of the total funds needed. We ask all members of our congregation to prayerfully consider if you are able to make an additional contribution to this project.

## Purpose Statement and Core Values

### ***Purpose Statement:***

Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and Beyond.

### ***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.

# Music Notes

From Greg Cline

Our Advent mid-week service of worship this year is "Unfailing Light." This liturgy has traditionally been handbell accompanied by our children (grade 4 and up.) We need to know the level of interest by mid October in order to coordinate with the musical score. Questions? Contact Greg. The schedule for this ministry is as follows:



Rehearsals: Wednesdays...Nov 2, Nov 9, Nov 16 @ 5:30

Worship Days: Wednesdays...Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14

Rehearse @ 5:30, Meal, Worship @ 6:45

Holy Comforter adult ensembles are off and running and on high alert. Church Choir ministry is weekly duty, as we lead the congregation through the liturgy. Chamber and handbell choirs present musical offerings on an intermittent schedule. Words of thanks for all these music ministers who give so unselfishly of time and talent. Not every congregation is as blessed!

For the foreseeable future the choirs will observe the following schedule:

Sundays: 10:10 am Church Choir meets in the Balcony

5:00 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

Wednesdays: 7:00 pm Chamber Choir

As has been mentioned many of us remember 30 years ago when the old pipe organ was removed from the Sanctuary to make room for our current instrument. For me one of the more comical moments came during those months when I would go and practice at Belmont Abbey Cathedral. There are always people walking through to pray, contemplate, or taking a tour.

On one occasion, while I was playing, a group of people appeared to be processing in. One of the Abbey Monks walks over to me and places a liturgy book on the organ key desk and announces, "We will be using the rubrics on page 7." Immediately ceasing whatever I was practicing I discovered that a funeral was commencing and, yes, I was an "instant organist," apparently through a grand lack of communication. Afterward, the family was extremely gracious and grateful. I don't remember if I was brave enough to return there to rehearse again.

I suspect that every church musician could "Write a Book" on events that occur within church walls. Holy Comforter has allowed the freedom to step out musically and take chances. One example is that we use a total of at least 8 liturgy settings throughout the church year. A high number for our size congregation. One of many other examples that I learned the hard way, and won't repeat, was the Homecoming Sunday that we thought it would be cute to have, "Those under 40 sing verse 2...Those over 40 sing verse 3. Well, guess what, no one sang on verse 3! We learn from our mistakes.



FROM THE PASTOR


Grace and peace,

This month, on Reformation Sunday at the end of October, three of our youth are planning on being confirmed. They have been through the confirmation program at Holy Comforter, which has changed a lot over the last few years. We've moved to a model where students gain credits by their participation in classes, in confirmation camp, and in projects they complete. When they have accumulated enough credits, not time, they are able to be confirmed after some conversations with Beka or Pastor Micah. This can happen in two years, as has been the tradition here, or it can happen in three, four, or however long it takes them. Our goal is not to move people through a program, but to equip them with the knowledge and witness of faith for them to make the promises at their confirmation. Confirmation is not a graduation from classes, but a declaration of faith. At its core it is an Affirmation of Baptism service. We believe that what happens in baptism is God's action on us, complete grace, as God claims us as God's children, clothes us in Christ's righteousness and not judging us on our own, promises us everlasting life with Christ both now and through death, and gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit which binds us to one another. That Baptism is entirely a gift from God means that there is little that we do in baptism except receive, especially as infants. Our parents and perhaps godparents promise to raise us in the faith, to witness faith to us, to engage us in communities of faith, and to teach us about our faith. The church then promises to help in that work, and our confirmation classes are part of the church fulfilling those promises. As these students are confirmed, they are not graduating from classes, but are saying that this faith that they've been taught, that they've experienced as they've grown up, that they've heard about in Sunday School, that they've learned about in classes, is something that they want for themselves and are taking responsibility for. They are affirming that who God says that they are in baptism, God's children and the Body of Christ continuing Christ's ministry in the world, is who they want to be. I am proud of these three youth. I am proud of the work that they have put in over the past two years to be equipped for this affirmation of their faith. I am proud of their willingness to stand before our congregation to claim this life of faith for themselves. And I am proud of the people they are and will continue to grow to be, people who will be a witness to God's love and grace in the world and for all people in it. This is not the end of anything for them except for a few classes, but it is the beginning of a life of faith "to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth," as they will promise that day.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah





# monday book club

*The Book of Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu*  
Starting September 26th

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Mondays at 7 pm with  
Pastor Micah

second week of the month

# Small Groups

starting October



Sunday @ 4pm  
Tuesday @ 7pm  
Thursday @ 7pm



# Trunk or Treat

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29  
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Sign up to host a trunk!

# October Birthdays


*We recognize and celebrate these birthdays! We are thankful for the Life and Spirit of those we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of*

October 1	Ellen Fleming
	Andres Mendez
October 4	Mark Reese
October 5	Larry Siglar
October 7	Catherine Carr
	Tripp Hyman
	Jeremy Tucker
October 8	John Lee
October 10	Timothy Kelly
October 11	Evan Howard
	Patricia Roberson
October 14	Jean Ferguson
	Linda Grimsley
	Jeff Howard
October 15	Trey Nerret
October 21	George Keller
	Jeff Nerret
October 22	Taylor Gross
October 23	Carson Potter
	Noah Rogers
October 24	Renee Carpenter
October 26	Carole Jolley
October 27	Kay Holden
October 28	Andrew Bryant
	Sarah Reese
October 30	Micah Kearney
	Diana Dukeshire
October 31	Kurt Scholler
	Gary Rogers

*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.*

# PRIME TIMERS

## BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP



Thursday, October 13th at 10:30 am

We will be looking at  
Luke 16:19-31

# Women's Bible Study

Inspired  
by Rachel Held Evans

Wednesdays  
starting September 28th  
6:45pm



United Church of the Holy Comforter


# Reformation Lunch

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

Immediately following worship

The Church will provide meat and drinks.  
We would ask the congregation for sides and desserts.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



rooted, raising & reaching

3RD TUESDAYS AT 7PM

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday at 7 pm



# WORSHIP



# Volunteers Needed