



It is safe to say that we have had a steady flow of activities around here. This summer we had confirmation projects being done, Movie on the Lawn, VBS, a Mission Trip to the Dwelling and plenty more. We are excitedly looking forward to the fall with new programming and your regularly scheduled programming. Let me tell you, there is a lot to look forward too. Let me reintroduce you to our faith formation program.

Starting in September we will pick up Sunday school, Kids Club, HCY, Small Groups*, Book Club* and a few other exciting changes. Sunday school will be at 9:30 am on Sunday, and Kids Club and HCY will take place in the evenings. I'm really excited about the shift in our KC and HCY programming, starting this year KC will meet on the second Sunday of the month at 4 pm. From 4-5 Kids club will meet for music, activities, and play. From 5-5:30 Kids Club AND HCY will eat dinner together (insert excitement here). Meals are holy and our young people gathering for a meal is holy. From 5:30-6:30 HCY will gather for games, study, and quality time. This change is one we are making in efforts to connect our age groups and reinvigorate our

Kids Club programming. So be sure to invite a friend and come hungry.

Now, let's talk about those cute asterisks at the beginning of the last paragraph. Small Groups and Book Club are brand new and are geared for us to build community. Small Groups are to help weave people together to build relationships of support and prayer. Logistically, groups will gather on the second week of the month for a devotion, and a time of sharing and connecting, and will end in prayer. The best way to get plugged into a small group is to sign up. Be on the lookout for those in the coming weeks. Now on to Book Club, we are starting a seasonal book club that will meet on Monday evenings. When I say seasonal, I mean one book in the fall, one book in the spring, and one book in the summer. When it comes to reading, we aren't looking at doing any kind of speed reading but reading a chapter and having faithful conversation about the book. Our first book is by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu called *The Book of Forgiveness*. There is lots on the horizons, folx. We pray that you will consider meeting us where you are and walking in faith together.

Deacon Beka, rforst@holyc.org



Faithful Families Tip– Mail is Good for the Soul

- Keep some blank note cards handy, and when your child is looking for paper to color on, offer them the blank cards. From time to time ask your child to name someone who might appreciate a card. Encourage your child to think about those who are sick or in need of cheering up or deserve thanks. Ask questions like “who is someone we could thank for helping us?” or “who did we pray for in church today?” then use one of the cards with their original art to send someone a note.



September 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

Greg Cline, *Organist /Choirmaster*

Beka Forst, *Deacon of Discipleship*

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

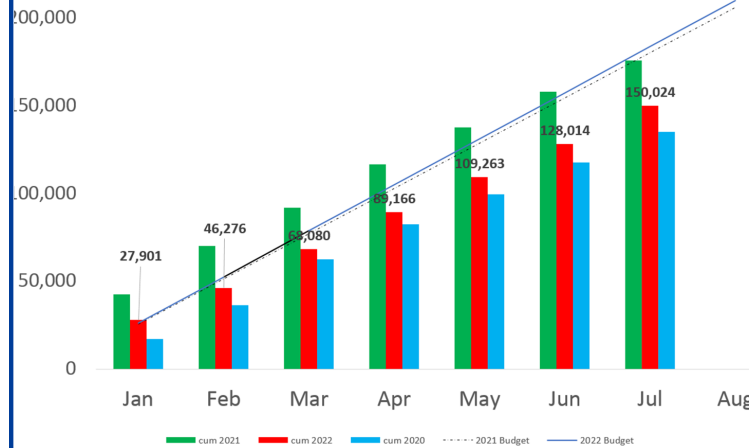
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Treasurer's Report for July 2022

Offerings to Current Account(\$), 2022 vs. 2021 & 2020



Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during July was \$2920.68. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$22,010.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2022 is \$26,222.00. The year-to-date deficit, through July 31, was \$16,545.80. Year-to-date

spending was \$16,984.20 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 (begins 9/18)

• Tuesdays:

7:00 pm- Nar-Anon

• Wednesdays:

4:00 pm- Adult Faith Formation afternoon video

Events to Note:

-Prime Timers– September 11th 10:30am.

-Outreach– September 15th 7 pm.

-Christian Ed– September 20th 7 pm.

- Book Club– Starting September 26th at 7pm

Music Notes

From Greg Cline

The Church Choir resumed rehearsals in August. We are already working on bits and pieces of compositions for fall and winter, including festivals from Reformation, All Saints, Advent, and Christmas. The choir welcomes four new voices to the ensemble: Travis Rhyne, tenor, has been singing with his family in the Nave for years. Gary Clark, bass, has sung in a number of barbershop groups in the past. We have not sung much barbershop in worship...but who knows! Emilie Bruchon, alto, has returned to Holy Comforter with her family for a year before moving to Paris, France. Yes, she is Elizabeth Bruchon's daughter. Sarah Jo, soprano, will be joining our congregation this fall. She is also getting married on New Year's Day. We welcome all of these members to the choir family!

Our handbell and chamber choirs will resume right after Labor Day. A number of folks from the adult musical ensembles also serve in additional capacities and ministries within the body of the church. I've heard an old saying that if you want to get something done...ask a busy person. We have many examples within this group.

One of the new anthems that we are beginning to learn is entitled: "O Love." Music has a way of expressing healing/nurturing/



uplifting the spirit. The text is paraphrased from a famous hymn composed in the 1800's.

O Love, that will not let me go. O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.



O Love, that will not let me go!

Courtyard Project Update

Our courtyard project is underway, with painters nearing completion of the exterior of the building and sign. On August 29th, or soon after, demolition of the pavers will begin, and we hope the project will near completion by the end of October.

We appreciate the generosity of so many in our congregation to allow this project to take place and make our facilities a more beautiful, welcoming, and safe space. We need to raise approximately \$15,000 of the total \$240,000 cost to complete the work. We're close!



Prime Timers Bible Study

Our Prime Timers group, those of retirement age and up, will gather again for Bible Study in person on **Thursday, September 8 at 10:30am**. We will meet at the church in the fellowship hall. We will be looking at **Luke 15:1-10**. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!

A graphic for Monday Book Club. It features a stack of three books in green, white, and blue. Below the books is the text "monday book club" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Underneath that is the text "The Book of Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu" and "Starting September 26th". At the bottom, it says "Mondays at 7 pm with Pastor Micah".

September 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

September 2
September 3

September 7
September 9
September 10
September 11

September 14
September 17
September 18
September 20

September 21
September 23

September 24
September 25
September 26

September 28
September 29

Preston Baker
Bryn Bailey
Jarin Schmaltz
Elizabeth Bruchon
Mary Doctor
Sherry Nelson
Hannah Carnes
Maria Carr
Madison Carr
Emily Koehler
Bill Hollar
Winston Baker
Dianne Halvorson
Lyn Miller
Horace Bean
Heather Povinelli
Anne Reese
Rebecca Yount
Becca Doctor
Harold Singleton
Warren Heller
Jeremy Scharpenberg
James Milton
Beth Passer
Barbara Beale
Claire Mitchell
Luca Piscatelli

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.

Worship Volunteers Needed!

Consider signing up to be apart of our worship experience on Sunday mornings!



You can sign up to Lector, provide altar flowers, and be a greeter using the iPad located in the Narthex or by contacting the church office.

A graphic for Small Groups. It features the text "second week of the month" in a small, sans-serif font. Below that is the text "Small Groups" in a large, stylized font. Underneath "Small Groups" is the text "starting October". Below this is an illustration of a group of people standing in a circle, holding hands. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text that reads "Sunday @ 4pm", "Tuesday @ 7pm", and "Thursday @ 7pm".

A graphic for Christian Education. It features a yellow circle with the words "CHRISTIAN" at the top and "EDUCATION" at the bottom in a stylized font. In the center of the circle is a line drawing of a group of people standing in a circle, holding hands. Below the drawing is the text "rooted, raising & reaching".

Christian Ed Meeting!

Join us on *September 20th* at 7pm.

Contact Jill Cassel for more information.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Join us September 11th for God's Work Our Hands Worship, lunch, and projects serving the Belmont area. Projects are geared for all ages. Projects include:

- **Bunny Blessings: Gardening and Cleaning**
- **SOCKS: Sorting and Organizing**
- **House of Mercy: Cleaning vans and rooms**
- **Signs of Hope: Encouraging messages in our front yard!**
- **Cookies for First Responders: Bake cookies and make cards for the local fire and police departments.**

Be sure to sign up for a project in the Narthex!

Outreach Committee Meeting



Join Outreach on September 15th at 7 pm in the fellowship hall. We are planning for our annual Fall Festival

For more information contact Brittany Lewis.



Grace and Peace,

This month we launch into our faith formation programming at Holy Comforter, including two new programs for adults. In a previous newsletter I talked about my hope for small groups, that they would be small communities in which folks could find accompaniment, deeper relationships, and could think about how their faith and life work together as those relationships are centered in devotion and prayer. Our other program we're starting up this year is the book study that will happen seasonally. Book studies are a chance for folks to dive deeper into certain aspects of our faith than we might be able to in our everyday lives. Reading in a group can sometimes feel inconvenient, slowing our reading in some cases, or in other forcing us to read when we feel we don't have time. It also can be an incredible gift that allows us to wrestle with new ideas in safe places, with folks who care about us, where we can bounce ideas around and hear how others have experienced the reading. We have a number of ideas of books to dig into, but we're starting out this month by reading *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu and his daughter, Mpho.

I actually started reading this book recently myself because of a combination of providing pastoral care to someone struggling with forgiveness, as well as myself thinking through a situation in my own life and what forgiveness might look like there. As I've been reading it I have regularly thought how this book would be good for just about anyone. Forgiveness is a core aspect of our faith, both that we receive forgiveness from God and that we offer it to others as we continue God's work of reconciliation in the world. Yet, as integral as it is to our lives of faith, it is something we continue to struggle with, both in enacting and in understanding. Archbishop Tutu and his daughter, the Reverend Mpho Tutu, give wonderful insight on forgiveness that is grounded both in their faith and in their life experiences. They offer paths of forgiveness, showing that it is not something we do in a moment but something that we work for, both for the perpetrator of the wrong as well as for ourselves. They speak of the good of forgiveness whether the relationship is meant to be reconciled or released. They make forgiveness seem possible when we have, perhaps, felt like we're drowning in our resentment and the ways someone has harmed us and didn't know a way forward.

Each week we'll read a chapter or more of the book and then come together to talk about what we've read, how we experienced it, and how we might be able to use it. It is possible this will bring up some challenging experiences for folks, so no one is required to share beyond their comfort, but I believe the work of forgiveness is necessary for us to claim the fullness of life that God wants for us and continue the ministry of reconciliation that we've been given in Christ's name. Come be a part of this time together!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah

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.