



## The Holy Comforter Comment



### June 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)

**Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship**

**Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster**

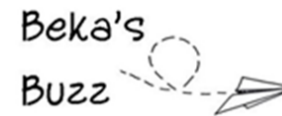
**Sandra Askey, Office Manager**

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Faith Formation is vital to our faith journey. Our faith formation is a life-time vocation. So how do we learn? How do we grow and build a foundation of faith that will be with us in our life? When I wrote my master's thesis, I wrote about the importance of faith formation at different ages and stages. This guy named Jeff Westerhoff wrote about the question, *Will Our Children Have Faith?* Our life in community is surrounded by our rituals and our group experience of them. So, our young people being present in worship allows them to share in this amazing faith forming experience. Faith formation isn't just for young people and children, but it is for everyone.

That guy, Jeff, goes on to talk about the stages of faith. The stages he talks about are experienced faith, affiliative faith, searching faith, and owned faith. *Experienced faith* is connected to the words of faith, not the concepts. *Affiliative faith* is characterized by a sense of belonging to a community and an experience of the Jesus story. Jesus' life and story provides one's identity. *Searching faith* is a stage of questions and wanting answers. Comparing what one knows with a new

experience is a normal stage of growth. *Owned faith* is one that most adults identify with. Owned faith is a way of saying "this is my story, my faith. I own it and I am owned by it". Faith formation is a lifelong journey, it is our vocation as followers of Jesus to continue growing our faith, to share our faith.

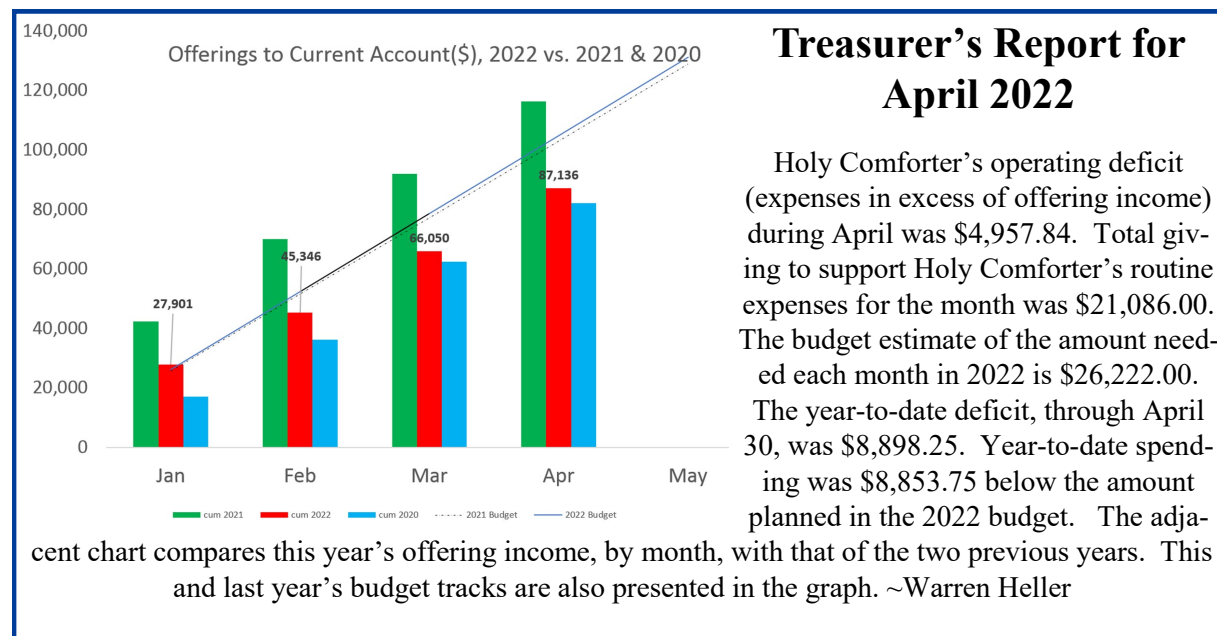
Now, with all that said, faith formation is a priority to the staff and community of Holy Comforter. As we continue to dream about that that will be like. Faith is an experience and a belief; all these experiences of faith are affirmations. No matter where you are on life's journey, we need a place where love, trust, acceptance, and hope. As Christian Ed works to provide faith forming experiences that meet the ages and stages of our community, we hope that you will join us. There is space for you.

~Beka Forst



#### **Faithful Families Tip— Parts of Worship**

People learn parts of liturgy easily during weekly worship. Notice the pieces your child enjoys and suggest them at other times during the week. You don't have to see-ing well to sing them together. For example, the refrain of "Glory to God" from any musical setting can become a spontaneous worship.



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:

10:10 am– Church & Chamber Choir

10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary

*\*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

#### Events to Note:

- Pot Luck– After Worship– June 5th

-Prime Timers– June 9th 10:30am.

- Movie on the Lawn– 8pm– June 10th

- Outreach Meeting– 7pm– June 16th

## Treasurer's Report for April 2022

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during April was \$4,957.84. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$21,086.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2022 is \$26,222.00. The year-to-date deficit, through April 30, was \$8,898.25. Year-to-date spending was \$8,853.75 below the amount planned in the 2022 budget. The adjacent

## June 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 each of you.*

<b>June 2</b>	<b>Lucas Serrano</b>
<b>June 5</b>	<b>Asa Gross</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Katie Piscatelli</b>
<b>June 9</b>	<b>Kaylin Leitner</b>
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Erin Kirby</b>
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Tonya Zander</b>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Martha Hogge</b>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>John Koehler</b>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>Reid Passer</b>
<b>June 29</b>	<b>Gabriel Kearney</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Leah Koehler</b>

*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.*

## Music Notes

From Greg Cline

Our church, chamber, and handbell ensembles have accompanied us through the festival seasons of the church year. While the church choir technically never has a break from services of worship, we now move into summer mode to give our volunteers a bit of rest. The way it works is that we ask folks who are in town to arrive at our traditional gathering in the balcony at 10:10. A bulk part of the choir role is not necessarily the anthem...but the leading of hymns and liturgy. So, thanks to all who serve literally behind the congregation! Your ministry is very much appreciated.

\*The ministry has been supported tremendously by Elizabeth Bruchon, who has served on our church choir, chamber choir, and handbell team for a number of decades. Elizabeth also has served on worship and music committees, as well as children's choir assistant and a myriad of other ministry duties. While I don't believe in goodbyes, Elizabeth is relocating in a few weeks to ArdenWoods, which is actually just minutes from Lutheridge. She told me that she did not wish to be singled out in worship with any public fanfare, but did not say I could not share in a newsletter article. Such is the old saying..."It's easier to ask for forgiveness!"

Many years ago Elizabeth and her family joined Holy Comforter and would sit almost up front (pulpit side.) Over time word got to me that Elizabeth was a musician from churches past. I can be an extrovert when duty calls. I explained all the perks and benefits of being on the music ministry team; Elizabeth quickly informed me of her 4 grade school children, who sat in perfect formation with her and her family on pew #2. It would be years before she could not be on "mommy" duty. I asked her if she could be away from them for 3 minutes...looking puzzled she answered, "well, of course!" I welcomed her to choir rehearsal that evening and she came up the following week for 3 minutes to sing with the choir...and the rest is history.

I am certain that Elizabeth will be back from time to time



to visit, but in the mean time will be greatly missed. We wish her much good health and happiness and God's Peace!

~ Greg Cline







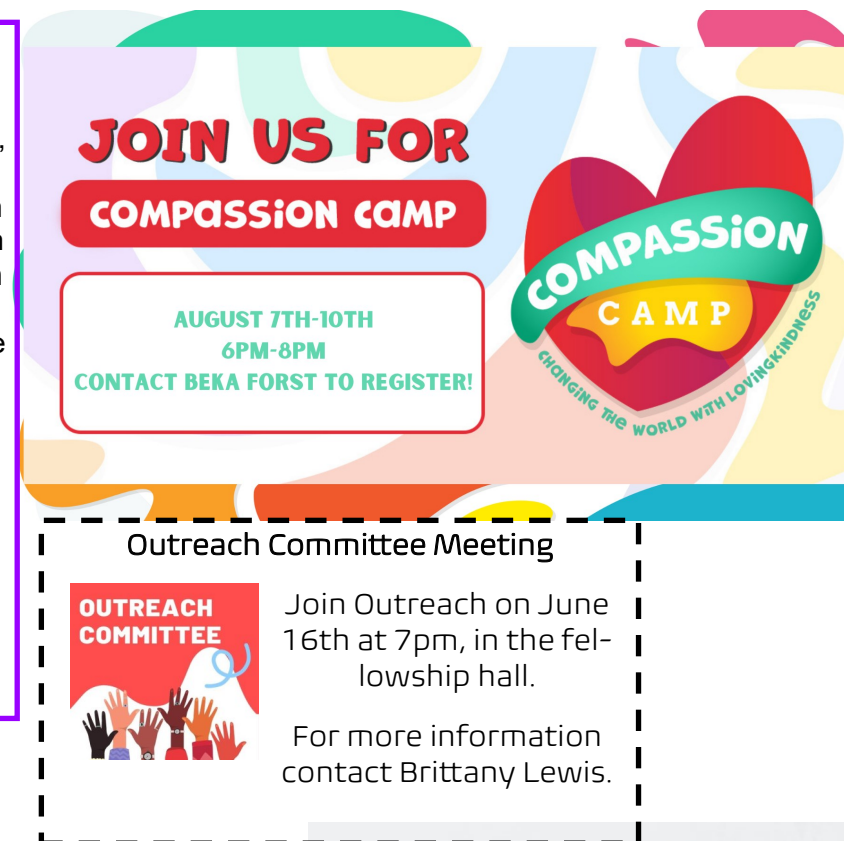
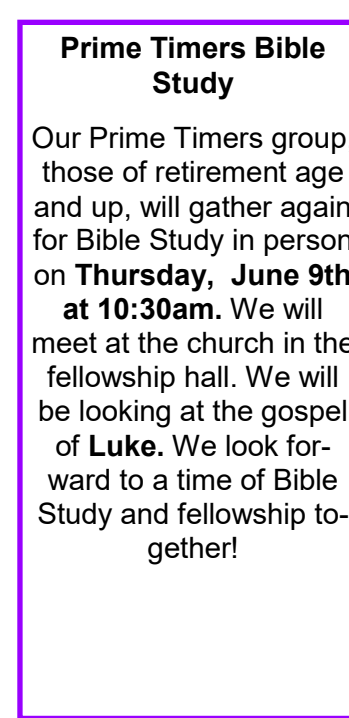
Worship Volunteers Needed!

Consider signing up to be apart of our worship experience on Sunday mornings! You can sign up using the ipad located in the



EMILY IS GRADUATING FROM SOUTH POINT AND HEADED TO WINTHROP IN THE FALL!

LUKE GRADUATED FROM WESTER CAROLINA UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY.





## FROM THE PASTOR

At 11:30 on June 1<sup>st</sup> my boys will officially be on summer break, and so will their mother from her job at a preschool. Even though my weekly schedule doesn't change much throughout the year and I often miss out on much of their activities, I really enjoy summer break. I come home from lunch and the boys are playing with water balloons or playing in an inflatable pool that takes up the end of the driveway while Jenn works in the garden. When I get home from work we aren't just rushing through the dinner/shower/bedtime routine, but with plenty of daylight left and less strict bedtimes we have time for after-dinner walks and catching fireflies.

One reason I love summer is because much of the normal business of our school/sports schedules gets stripped away and we are able to lean into quality time with each other. At this point in our family's life situation, summer brings with it an ability to slow down and lean into enjoying some of the seemingly simple things in life.

That may not be how your summer works. You may not have kids that force your household to shift schedules in the summer, and life continues on a similar pace. Perhaps a move into the summer actually feels more chaotic, because school is out and you can't depend on that routine for childcare, or maybe you *are* the childcare for children or grandchildren. But even if summer isn't it for you, I hope that you find time to slow down, to shift gears, for changes in routines that allow you to notice things you often overlook. Because I think in the busyness of our lives we often overlook places where God is at work in each day, and changes in schedules and seasons can help us see things in a new light.

For our family, we spend a lot more time outside in the summers. We chase lizards and frogs, we catch fireflies, we eat fresh vegetables from the garden, we kayak on the river, we go for walks along the water, and we sit outside late into the night with family and friends. All of these are ways I see God at work in things that we rarely have time for throughout the school year. I see God in creation, in the creativity and beauty in it, and in its ability to be a playground that gives us joy and lowers our stress levels. I see God at work in the quality time we get to spend with folks, time to deepen relationships, to see Christ in each person and get to know God by getting to know God's children who are made in God's image. I see God at work in the opportunity to slow down in and of itself, to have our lives not entirely defined by our production value.

Sometimes what we need is a change of scenery, a vacation that lets us rest or enjoy the world and people God has made. Sometimes what we need is a change of routine to help us to see God at work right where we are. Whether that happens as we move into summer or not, I hope that you have opportunities for that shift that allows you to see God with new eyes.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah

### Purpose Statement and Core Values Finalized

Our council has officially adopted both a new mission/purpose statement for the congregation, which is both descriptive and aspirational at once, and core values, which are the guardrails that keep us true to ourselves as we follow this purpose. We look forward to weaving these into the work that we do to organize, focus, and energize our work together in Christ's name!

**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.