



Mid-Week Update for the week of March 15 to 22, 2020

Published March 17, 2020

A Prayer

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart,
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make them
the equal of whatever lies ahead.

Bring them courage to endure what cannot be
avoided, for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.

(from the New Zealand Prayer book)

Stay in Touch!

Telephone Ministry

It's awful to feel lonely and isolated. So give somebody a call! We are stepping up our telephone contact with each other. The new copies of the directory have been emailed this week. Hard copies can be picked up outside the church, and in the church lobby. The directories

are in a little wheeled gardening cart outside the glass doors to the church. You can come at any time to pick up your new directory.



Pastor Heidi and seminarian intern Katrina Bergman are initiating a program of making telephone calls to church members who are

shut-in and self-quarantined. If you are feeling isolated and would like to talk to a pastor, please give Pastor Heidi a call at 612-296-7878.

Changes in Life at Peace Prez

Worship

1. We hope to offer virtual worship—that is, being able to access our Sunday morning 10:30am worship service on Facebook or by way of connecting through other computer technologies. (Right now, we are investigating "Zoom," a video conferencing technology). As soon as we figure out how to do worship in this way, we will send you an e-mail with instructions.
2. We may continue smaller regular in-person worship services but ask people to practice “social distancing”: sitting at least six feet apart from one another and refraining from handshakes and hugs.
3. At the same time, we may cancel our regular in-person worship services. The decision will be made Thursday night when the session meets.
4. **Check your e-mail or call the church to confirm whether there will be worship before you come. The voicemail message will include all cancellations.**
5. Right now, we plan to have tomorrow night's Wednesday evening worship service at 7pm because it is a small service. We expect fewer than 10 people, which is in keeping with guidelines for gatherings put out by the Minnesota Department of Health. We are not sure we will have this service next week, so be sure to call the church to confirm.

Music News

Even if we move to on-line worship only, music continues to be important! Our musician Patrice Meschke will be in touch with all choir members and musicians to let you know plans for rehearsals and special music. This week new member Elizabeth Greene will be playing the violin.

Meetings

We are calling off regular meetings and gatherings—except when special instructions are given (such as the session meeting on Thursday night). The Quilters will not meet. Book club will not meet. Bible study is canceled. The child-friendly Palm Sunday outreach effort is cancelled.

Prayer

We will start sending out daily devotions and prayers via e-mail. If you do not want to receive this daily message, or if you would like to receive it and are not, please let us know. Send an email to peaceprezslp@gmail.com or leave a message on the church voicemail at 952-545-2586.

Cancellations

In order to protect our members and friends, we have decided to **cancel Wednesday night suppers and Sunday morning coffee fellowship**. We will continue to meet for Wednesday Lenten services at 7:00 pm and Sunday morning services at 10:30 am, being careful to leave plenty of space between worshippers. If you feel you may be sick, including having a fever, a cough, or shortness of breath, please stay home. If you are worried

about becoming sick, we recommend you stay home as well.

We are working on virtual alternatives to attending church. In the meantime, you can view our Sunday bulletins ahead of time here:

<https://www.peaceprez.com/news/publications/>

You can also check out Westminster Presbyterian's streaming services here:

<https://westminstermpls.churchonline.org/>

Announcements

Mission Update

In March we are collecting bedding and kitchenware for Alliance Housing. At the Wednesday Night Supper, the mission committee collected \$80 for socks that will be given to St. Stephens Human Services for the homeless. In April on Easter we will collect donations for One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please consider making a donation to this program, whether on Easter Sunday, or before or after Easter.

Congratulations to office manager **Beth Wootten** for being accepted into multiple graduate schools in Washington DC in the field of international studies. Beth is our interim office manager. She plans to leave for her studies in DC in August. This spring we will start searching for a permanent replacement.

We are thinking that a parent whose child(ren) are in school might like a part time job. Let us know if you know anyone who might be interested.



Day on the Hill is Cancelled

Unfortunately, the annual interfaith social justice “Day on the Hill” has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. They are planning on having a virtual gathering the same week, in the evening so that those working can also participate. More information about the online Day on the Hill will be provided later.

Calling All Writers!



The next Tidings of Peace will be published in time for Easter. If you have a reflection on Lent and Easter, or a story, poem or event to share, please send them to the office by **March 30**.

Donate Fabric and Used Linens

The Quilters are in urgent need of fabric for more quilts. Anything will be helpful. Donated fabric will be used for the fronts and backs. Old worn-out bedsheets, mattress toppers, linens, drapes, tablecloths, and batting can be used to fill the quilts instead of being thrown out. New and gently used items will be donated to Alliance Housing, and anything they won't take will become a part of donated quilts.



Alliance Housing

The Missions Committee is working to collect items for Alliance Housing this month. Alliance's work makes it possible for individuals and families to create homes for themselves, regardless of income and background. Their current needs are: new or gently used blankets, pillows, twin sheets, and kitchenware. If you have any items to donate, please bring them to church and put in the designated area in the narthex. If you want to donate money to Alliance, please make the check to Peace Presbyterian Church and put Alliance in the memo.

Prayers

Prayers of Gratitude

Eileen Bengry's son (Karen Meyer's brother) who had been taken to the hospital with chest pains was found to have pneumonia—and is being successfully treated.

Val Eng's mother is doing much better and will be able to move into an assisted living facility relatively soon. Thank you everyone for your prayers.

Frank Vardeman (and **Zest**) came back early from their Florida sojourn on Friday night. They are at home and glad to be there! The trip that family had planned to visit Frank was cancelled. Heidi, daughter Jane & her family, and Heidi's mom Jinny Hilf all are still in Minnesota!

Aaron Councilman made it home from Ireland safe and sound on Monday. We are grateful that other young people—such as **Mary Ann Christenson's** granddaughter and others—were also able to come home from foreign study.

Prayers of Petition

Donna Howard's mother is undergoing cancer treatment in Rochester. She asked for prayers for her mother's medical team and her family.

Betts Snyder shared that her daughter **Mary Kay** has suffered a return of breast cancer. Pray for her as she enters treatment again.

Prayers in a Pandemic

Pray for all children who are facing dangerous situations at home. In Sunday's service, Marcia Curley offered prayers for children who are out of school. She spoke about those who are so vulnerable: children whose only meals each day are the breakfast and lunch they receive at school. Even though children in her school have laptop computers, she worries that the laptops will be stolen from them.

Pray for cashiers. Robin Councilman thanked us for the prayers offered for medical professionals—in our congregation that includes Robin, her husband David and Joan Amara (new member who is a nurses aid)—but reminded us that those in the front lines without much support are the **cashiers** and others who take care of essential services. She asked that we also pray for those who are traveling.

Pray for those in nursing facilities. Rev. Alison offered prayers for those who are facing

social isolation in nursing homes and care facilities.

Pray for those who have lost their jobs because of the public health situation. MacKenzie Uhlenhopp, a music therapist who traveled to see clients often in nursing homes, can no longer do her job because no visitors are being allowed. She has money saved (and is planning to move back to Iowa in May anyway) so she's okay, but she asked for prayers for all the workers who travel like her and no longer have an income.

If you have any prayer requests that you would like printed in the Mid-Week Update, please e-mail them to peaceprezslp@gmail.com or call the church office at 952-545-2586 and leave a message.

Calendar

This Week

Wednesday, March 18

7:00 pm – Lent Service—“like sparrows on a telephone line” we will sit six feet apart for safety reasons.

Thursday, March 19

7:00 pm – Session Meeting in sanctuary sitting six feet apart

This Coming Sunday

Sunday, March 22

No bible study, no coffee hour.

Seminarian Katrina Bergman will preach.

We plan to offer on-line options to attend worship on your computer. You will be notified no later than Friday afternoon if we plan to cancel in-person worship or if we will be holding worship while practicing “social distancing.”

Liturgist: Brenda Martens

Elder for the month of March: Bob Unze

Coming up Next Week (please note, plans are in flux)

Monday, March 23

Church office closed

Wednesday, March 25

7:00 pm – Lent Service

Sunday, March 29

10:30 am – Worship either online, in person, or both



March Birthdays

Eileen Bengry	March 18
Ruth Slatter	March 30
Betsy Twedell	March 30
Rosemary Hall	March 31
Judy Huebner	March 31

If You Have Information that needs to be in the weekly update such as meeting dates and times, special events or prayer requests, please get this information to our office manager Beth by Wednesday morning. Please email or call peaceprezSLP@gmail.com or 952-545-2586.