



Mid-Week Update for the week of June 14 to 21, 2020

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Parking Lot Worship on Sunday

This Sunday, June 21st, we will be holding our first parking lot worship service.

Come early! You will be directed to a parking place in our parking lot. You should keep your car running, stay in your car, and tune your radio to our broadcasting station (to be announced). You can also bike or walk to the church parking lot. We will have space in the garden (appropriately socially distanced) to sit

and radios to listen to. Be sure to wear a mask and bring a folding chair if you can.

A rehearsal for the parking lot service will be held on Saturday, June 20, at 3:30pm. If you can help to direct traffic or set up, please come. If you are not able to come at that time, please send an e-mail to peaceprezslp@gmail.com to let us know that you can be at the church at 9a.m. on Sunday morning to help.

The service will be streaming live on Zoom and Facebook as usual for those who do not want to drive in. We hope to continue parking lot service once a month or so while the weather is good.

We hope that parking lot worship will be a great step towards worshiping together again and hope that you can join us on Sunday!

Announcements



Fish Nets Needed for Sunday's Service

Other churches that have held parking lot services have used fish nets to collect the offering, and we'd like to try this whimsical idea. If you have a fish net you can lend to the church for Sunday's service, please e-mail the church office and let us know.

Correction

Julie North has not retired! She has one more year before retirement. Pastor Heidi apologies for the mistake.



Drive-by Birthday Party for Frances Bennett

On Friday, June 26, you are invited to join a "driveway" birthday party for Frances on her 96th birthday. Come and gather in the church parking lot between 2:00 and 2:15pm. Bring a birthday card if you want to. You are also invited to decorate your car. We will leave the church at 2:25 in a caravan so that we start arriving at her building at 2:30pm.

Carpooling is still not recommended, so we'll just have to have a lot of cars! We will drive by her building, entering the driveway, driving through slowly but not stopping. I'll let Diane know when we're leaving the church how many cars they should watch for as we'll likely get separated at some point. Once a person's car has driven by, they are free to go home. The last car or two will briefly stop to hand over the cards and some treats.

After the drive-by, you are welcome to come back to the church parking lot—keeping a safe distance from each other, of course—to say hello to each other.



Mertz Garden Gathering

It's been so long since we have been together in person, and it looks like it is going to be like this a while longer. However, it is possible for us to safely get together in small groups outdoors. Heidi will be hosting a small outside get-together this Tuesday, June 23, at 9 a.m in the Mertz garden, to the right of the glass doors. You should wear a mask, but if you don't have one (or forget) we have extras.

Please make a reservation for the get-together by calling the church office at 952-545-2586. The first gathering will be limited to 10 people.

We will check in, talk about what we've been going through, bring up some prayer concerns and then share prayer.

News of the Church Community



Peace Church Garden

Amid this less-than-typical summer, Peace Church's plots in the Hurd community garden has been thriving. Thanks to the assistance of a master gardener in the community garden who supports our mission of providing fresh veggies to STEP, the garden is certainly a step above previous years. Between that and the abundance of sunshine over the past few weeks, we have already been able to harvest broccoli and radishes. For the first time since the start of our garden, we've donated to STEP before July 4! If you would like to help with the garden, let Robin or Dave Councilman know. They can show you which plants are vegetables and which are weeds.



Missions Month

As Mission Month at Peace Church continues, we want to recognize the Twin Cities Urban League. This organization plays a vital role as advocates for issues facing black people in the twin cities. TCUL strives to help future generations by working for black people to achieve economic-, educational-, and self-efficiency. Our church and mission Committee are happy to contribute \$100 to the Twin Cities Urban League.

New Mt. Calvary Pop-up Shop

Katie Bacon of InterMission is taking donations to the New Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church on alternate Mondays. That congregation has opened a pop-up free "store" that offers food, toiletries, laundry soap and diapers for their community.

If interested, contact Katie. She will pick up items from your doorstep or accept them at her address. Her next trip will be June 29, and the most needed items at this time are laundry soap, toothbrushes, dish soap and hygiene items.



From the Dogtor: Gauging Risk

Church member Robin Councilman, MD is a family practice doctor who works at Northpoint Medical Center in Minneapolis. Like her new t-shirt proclaims, Robin (and Panda the sheepdog) has been helpful in interpreting health issues for the church. On Sunday June 14, she spoke at the worship service about living amid the coronavirus pandemic and how to gauge risk.

As she said then, this pandemic likely isn't going away until we have a vaccine, which is probably beginning of next year. We are in this for the long haul, so sitting at home by yourself for months is not going to work. But be careful what you do to change your life to be more liveable.

Instead of previously, where we could decide to go out someplace on a whim, we need to think through our plans now. Think about your health and that of people you interact with. Risk conditions include:

- being elderly
- having chronic health conditions, including heart disease, lung disease and diabetes

Think about the risk factor of communal places:

- being indoors is riskier than outdoors

- more people in a space is riskier than less people
- sharing items is risky (remember, the virus can live on surfaces for days)
- singing and loud talking/cheering spread the virus

Be careful of people who are working outside the home, as many cases of COVID are brought into the home by those who work. Other high-risk places include restaurants (particularly indoors), movie theaters, gyms, and indoor church. If you're going to do something risky, ie getting a haircut or going to a movie, then limit your contact the rest of the day.

Above all, remember to be careful and be safe, and we'll make it through this in good health and good spirits.



A Day in the Life...

By Katrina Bergman

Being in seminary has been a long journey. It is both much like, and completely different from, what I thought it would be. From a very young age I have been fascinated and baffled by the bible in equal measures. And I have longed to understand it. In seminary that longing to

understand was met with a call (read, assignment) to read each book of the bible. The assignment was that we would read each book in one sitting. In case you are wondering, some of those books are painfully long and boring. It was not an easy assignment. The only exception to this rule was when we read the Psalms. We got to split it into two sections.

Getting to read the Psalms in smaller portions was a relief to me because they were so much harder to just read. As a musician (my job for most of my adult life) I have an affinity towards music and song. Being a worship leader for years, I am deeply aware of the arguments that crop up around the sound theology of songs, which often look like contemporary versus traditional.

However, studying the Psalms helped me to know that we shouldn't necessarily get our theology from them (and the same is true of our modern-day psalms, whether contemporary or traditional). Often, they are simply descriptive, telling more about the author than about God, and not prescriptive, saying what God will, should, or does do.

Music and poetry are often less about black and white facts than they are about expressing an emotion, whether it be fear, love, hate, doubt, envy...and it is in these hymns and psalms both ancient and modern, that we can feel seen in those moments. They are crying out to God, to one who understands and who has the power to do something in these times of powerlessness. So whether we are crying out for retribution like the Psalmist in psalm 137, or we are crying out that God not pass us by in our moment of despair like Fanny Crosby

in Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior, we can come before a God who sees and hears us in our brutally honest and most difficult moments.



A Note from Zest

Hi! Hello! I miss you all so much! I loved being able to see some of you a couple weeks ago. Fortunately, I get to play with Frank and Heidi's grandson Aaron most mornings when he comes over to our house. We like to play with his dump truck in the backyard. The bad news is, I'm on a diet. When I took Frank to Florida last winter, we lived with two other dogs, who just left their food lying around, and I couldn't help but eat it all! Heidi thinks I put on too much weight, but clearly, I was carbo-loading for the summer. I hope you will think of me while I'm stuck in the metaphorical doghouse, and see me on Sunday at the drive-in service!

Woof love, Zest

Worship Resources

You can click on this link to join the zoom meeting, for Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/5046768135>

To dial in, call 312-626-6799 (long-distance).
The meeting ID is 504-676-8135.

To watch previous worship recordings on our YouTube channel, go to www.youtube.com/channel/UCvOa5jl8xld1VtI105h6ZRA/. They are also on our website at <https://www.peaceprez.com/worship-recordings/>. We will continue to post Sunday bulletins ahead of the service on our website at <https://www.peaceprez.com/news/publications/>



Prayers

These are the prayers shared at the Tuesday morning prayer gathering on Zoom:

We gave thanks for

- Laura Simonson, who recently celebrated her 40th birthday
- For being able to go fishing (Jake Hamilton)
- For rides in a convertible (Mary Ann Christensen and Heidi Vardeman)
- For the good care received in John Maier's retirement home and for his son Mark's care
- For our families and how they take care of us
- For the little things that we have been able to accomplish, such as getting our winter sweaters washed
- For the lovely warmer weather!

We prayed for

- Front line workers, such as grocery store workers and those who work in retirement home and other congregate care settings
- Racism in our society that is leading to so much tragedy.
- The economic problems that are being caused now and will be caused in the future by the Covid-19 pandemic. Please, gracious God, show us how to advocate for the "least of these" our brothers and sisters who are hurting so much.
- JoAnn Schutz' cousin's daughter who has breast cancer.
- For Alison Bucklin's friend Bob, who is recovering after lung surgery
- Minneapolis' recovery from the violence and destruction
- The Minnesota Legislature in special session, that it deals constructively with issues of police brutality
- For Mary Ann's friend, Jan Hogan, who is now in Hospice care, with COVID-19

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

If you would like to join these meetings but do not have internet access you can:

- Call 312-626-6799 (long-distance) at the meeting time, and enter meeting ID 504-676-8135
- Call the church beforehand at 952-545-2586 and leave a message, and we can set up a phone buddy for you who will let you listen to the Zoom meeting over the phone

This Week:

Wednesday, June 17

7:00 pm – Wednesday evening conversation and prayer, on Zoom

Thursday, June 18

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom
Matthew 10:24-39

Saturday, June 20

3:30 pm – Rehearsal for parking lot worship

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day

10:30 am – Sunday parking lot worship, also streaming on Zoom and Facebook

Next Week:

Tuesday, June 23

9:00 am – Mertz Garden gathering. Be sure to RSVP beforehand!

10:30 am – Morning conversation and prayer, on Zoom

Wednesday, June 24

7:00 pm – Wednesday evening conversation and prayer, on Zoom

Thursday, June 25

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom
Matthew 10:40-42

7:00 pm – Session Meeting on Zoom

Friday, June 26

2:15 pm – Gather for Frances Bennett's drive-by birthday party at 2:30 pm

Saturday, June 27

10:00 am – Book Club

Sunday, June 21

10:30 am – Sunday Worship, on Zoom and Facebook



June Birthdays

Rovean Evans	June 21
Alison Bucklin	June 24
Donna Winship	June 24
Frances Bennett	June 26
Kent Hall	June 29

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.

From the Pastor: Police Brutality and Political Involvement as a Person of Faith

Please consider reading this article in this week's New Yorker magazine. It is about the peaceful protests and destructive violence in Minneapolis. It is the best I have read yet. Be forewarned: it is LONG. But the situation is complicated and deserves lengthy description and analysis.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/06/22/the-heart-of-the-uprising-in-minneapolis>

Written by an experienced journalist who used to report from Afghanistan, the article gets into subtleties and ambiguities of the situation. He describes how, on the first night of violence, the police directed the crowds down Lake Street toward minority-owned businesses and then, when they abandoned the burning Third Precinct station, they also abandoned the surrounding neighborhood (where Frank and I live). This resulted in some scary stuff, including a building burned to the ground just a block and a half away from us.

In our Calvinist theological tradition, there is great respect for law, not only God's law but human law. We believe that human nature being what it is, we need laws and good government to direct us. The uprising in Minneapolis was and is not just one thing. It's not just people peacefully protesting. It's not just crazy, violent and destructive people tearing the community apart. It is a combination of people and, within individual persons themselves, a combination as well. Our church tradition teaches that it is our responsibility, as stewards of God's creation, to be involved in the creation and carrying out of good government which will include law enforcement. It also teaches that white supremacy and destructive violence are unacceptable. Getting it right is a constant struggle, thus inspiring our denomination's motto *semper reformada* "always reforming."

Right now is what theologians call a *kairos* moment. *Kairos* is ancient Greek, meaning the right, critical, or opportune moment, a proper time for action. As your pastor charged to

encourage you to live the Christian life, I urge you to give prayerful consideration to issues of police brutality and public safety and to consider contacting your state and federal legislators. You can find your representatives by typing in your address at <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>.

At 5pm on Wednesday evening, the state House of Representatives' committee dealing with public safety and law enforcement funding will meet. If you are interested in live streaming the hearing, you can do so on the House website at <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/live/2>. It is possible that our own Kristi Artzen, who has been closed captioning our worship services, may be closed captioning this meeting as well.

To be involved in government is part and parcel of living the Christian life. Right now is a time when you can make a difference. Please consider living out your faith not only in your home and at church, but on the public square as well.