



Mid-Week Update for the week of August 16 to 23, 2020

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Parking Lot Worship THIS SUNDAY, August 23

Our next parking lot worship service is THIS SUNDAY at 9:30am for another parking lot worship service. We'll have some lively music and fun. We will also hand out our next worship bulletins. Please come a little early to make it easier on the blue shirt volunteers who will direct traffic. We will also have a 10:30am service broadcast on Zoom and Facebook for those who do not wish to attend the parking lot service (or who sleep in!).



Rain Rain... Did Not Go Away

We were so sad that our attempt to have a Bring Your Own Food picnic on August 12 was rained out! The event was scheduled to take place at 6pm, tables and chairs were set out, and Rosemary Hall brought beautiful dahlias for decoration. Then, at the last minute, there was an awful downpour – and then another one! Many thanks to all who volunteered with all the set up and tear down. It was an experiment that just didn't turn out. Thanks to Robin Councilman, Jo Ann Schutz, Laura Simonson, Ron Abrahamson, Kent Hall, Dave and Julie North, Terry Kubista, Val Eng, and Patrice Meschke and many others who went above and beyond the call of duty.

Your chance to say good things about Peace Church!

The Sun Sailor, our local free newspaper, is conducting a Readers' Choice contest—and there's a category for religion, specifically "Place of Worship." Go to <https://apgecm.secondstreetapp.com/St-Louis-Park-2021-RCA/>, click on the category of religion and vote for Peace Presbyterian. You can vote in each category once a day!



Mission Update

This has been a strange year. During July and August, our church is usually collecting school

supplies for STEP. Many school districts are still trying to decide what they will do for the school year. With that said, STEP is still putting together backpacks for students. Your mission committee is sending a check to STEP for \$300, along with \$100 that was in the STEP fund. Besides school supplies, STEP is still distributing food and helping with rent. For the month of September, Missions will be sending a check for \$200 to People Serving People. Along with the pandemic there has been an increase in homelessness in our area.

I'm very thankful that our church has been able to reach out and help the many organizations in need. As you can imagine, our generosity has taken a toll on the mission funds. If you feel you would like to contribute to missions, please send a check to Peace Church with "Missions" in the memo. To those who have already been generous, a big Thank You.



Church Garden

In the midst of all the stressful news of 2020, the Peace Church plot in the community garden has been an example of God's abundant blessings. Since late June, it has produced enough fresh produce to donate twice each week to STEP. We started with broccoli, radishes, and snow peas and now are donating abundant green beans, tomatoes, and cucumbers. In July we donated a HUGE purple cauliflower and now have another one growing. God's blessings do overflow even in challenging times.



InterMission Ends

The session was sad to hear that InterMission, the new worshipping community that was originally founded as Reclamation Ministries, has come to an end. All the restrictions of the pandemic made things too difficult for them to continue. We are grateful for their work and presence among us. The Sunday School rooms were beautifully redecorated by volunteers. We will miss Jolene, Alice, Katie, James, and Everett and the other friends.

PTCA 2020-2021 Anti-Racism

Spiritual Pilgrimage

Are you called to a spiritual pilgrimage against racism? The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area invites you to a Presbytery-wide journey of deepening our engagement with the racial history of Minnesota and Western Wisconsin; using personal reflection and small groups (unique to either people of color or white people) to practice spiritual skills for anti-racist living; and taking action in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and other People of Color who are our neighbors in the community. You can find more information and instructions for registration on the Spiritual Pilgrimage website, <https://anti-racism-ptca.weebly.com/>.



The Sower



Presbyterian Women Newsletter

The August edition of the Synod Presbyterian Women newsletter “The Sower” has just come out. It contains articles on covid-19, information on fall book study groups, and statements and materials about racial justice. The website does not yet contain this newsletter, but has previous editions. If you would like to read the August newsletter, email peaceprezslp@gmail.com. You can read previous editions here:

<https://www.lakesandprairies.org/PresbyterianWomenintheSynod>



From Pastor Heidi

After our second week of state park ADA cabin and camping, this time at Copper Falls State Park, Frank and I were happy to get home to our bountiful garden – and our neighbors’ brand-new German Shepherd puppy. Frank continues with his half-time job providing childcare for our grandson Aaron who turned three in June. They spend a lot of time in the backyard. Grandparents forget how much work it is to take care of children. We are renewed in our respect for their hard work!

I was also grateful to get back to work at Peace Prez. Our Tuesday and Thursday morning Zoom meetings are especially meaningful to me. Please consider joining us at 10:30am on Tuesday for discussion and prayer and on Thursday at 10:30 for bible study—to discuss the passage upon which Sunday’s sermon will be based. The Zoom address is the same one we use for Sunday morning worship. The conversations are interesting.

One of the things that we pray for in our society is a rebirth of concern for the common good of all people. We have been noticing that there is a growing tendency for people to think only about themselves (for example, when people congregate carelessly and spread the Covid-19 virus). We pray that all people, regardless of their faith (or absence of faith), might love their neighbor and work to improve life for all people. The pandemic is wrecking havoc in the lives of so many people – those have been sick or died (and their families), those who have lost their jobs or businesses, those who are facing

eviction because they can't pay their rent or the mortgages. We need to pray for them, and work with our political and community leaders to figure out how we can help them.

This time of isolation can be difficult and lonely. Hang in there! I'm praying for you!

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Heidi

Send us a photo of you as a child!

We are experimenting with having some slide shows during our Zoom/facebook worship services. We ask that you send a photo of a photo to the church e-mail address (peaceprezslp@gmail.com). If you have a smart phone, it's easy to take the photo and send it via e-mail. If you do not have a smart phone, let Pastor Heidi know, maybe she can stop by your house and take a photo of your photo! Call her at 612.296.7878.



A Day in the Life... Seminary and Beyond, by Katrina Bergman

So, for those who have not heard the news, last weekend I turned in my final paper for my final class in seminary. I still have time left with you all, but as for seminary? I am done! It doesn't feel real. Suddenly I feel like I have all the time in the world. The last couple of days I have been doing a deep clean and reorganization of my house. And it feels good!

I have also been focusing on preparing for my next steps. For the Committee for the Preparation of Ministry (CPM) I must do a Fiscal Preparation Class, a Statement of Motivation and a Faith Statement. The CPM then presents me to the Presbytery. (I am so nervous about this!) This step is necessary for me to move from Inquirer to Candidate. I need to be a Candidate to take my Ordination Exams. When I am presented before the Presbytery, I will introduce myself and give some highlights from my Statement of Motivation, and then the Moderator of the Presbytery invites the presbytery members to ask me questions about the forms of Christian service I have undertaken, my Statement of Motivation, and my Faith.

After all this, I will leave the room, the presbytery will question the CPM chairperson, and then they will take a vote. If the vote is affirmative, representatives from my home church are invited to stand with me as they ask me to respond to question of call and faithfulness. I will then get a Certificate of Candidacy. Of course, this will likely all be on Zoom given the state of things. There is much work that needs to be done between now and November, when I hope to go before the CPM for them to decide if they deem me ready to appear before the Presbytery. Prayers will be greatly appreciated.



Remembering Panda

Panda, a beloved member of our church family passed away on August 6, after a sudden illness. After having received expert veterinary treatment it was decided the end of her life had come.

Panda was a therapy dog whose mission in life was to share unlimited love and compassion to all. She loved Peace Church (and Peace Church loved her). She regularly visited with people in institutional settings who through her quiet, gentle compassion experienced comfort and healing. She was an agent of compassion, showing people that total and unmerited love is possible. Panda was all about the spreading of love to everyone, being the spark that can get a fire going so those around her could “warm up in its glowing.” She showed us what unmerited and unlimited love could be and so engendered sparks of new life that, indeed, can be passed on.

While we offer our condolences to the Councilmans in this sudden and tragic loss, we remember to thank God for sending us Panda. The Biblical image that is most appropriate to Panda is the image of the angel. In the Bible, angels are not just halos and white raiments. They are God’s messengers, like the men who came to eat dinner with Abraham to deliver the

great news that his wife Sarah was going to have a baby. Abraham didn’t even realize they were angels. Panda was a messenger angel who shared God’s message that every single creature is worthy of love. Let’s remember that message, and do everything in our power to pass it on to others.



SLP Rotary Club

We recently received an email from the St. Louis Park Sunrise Rotary Club:

My name is Kevin Locke with the St. Louis Park Sunrise Rotary Club. We are one of the two Rotary clubs in St. Louis Park. Over the next several weeks we are holding a series of Zoom informational meetings open to all as an opportunity for people to learn about Rotary and help us design the future of our club.

The St. Louis Park Sunrise Rotary Club is a group of friends, neighbors, business and community leaders who come together for networking, service, fun and to create positive, lasting change in our local and international community. We are part of an international organization with 1.2 million members worldwide that helps us expand our reach across international boundaries.

Meetings are scheduled for

- Tues., August 25 at 12pm
- Wed., September 16 at 7:30am
- Thurs., September 24 at 4pm

They are held over Zoom. You can learn more about them at www.SLPSunriseRotary.org.

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

We pray for:

Jake Hamilton's grandmother, who is undergoing cancer treatment.

Katrina's friend Curt, who suffered a devastating spinal injury and is beginning the long road to recovery.

Nicole (Kubista) Starr's friend Brett and her spouse. Her friend is in a coma.

Anjel Starr, Nicole's son and the Kubistas' grandson, who may be returning to Minnesota. He is very grateful for the birthday cards he received from Peace people – and other cards he has continued to receive. Thanks!

The family of Frank and Heidi's friend **Keith Wishmeier** who died from lung cancer this past week.

Kodjo Gagnon and his wife who trying to find a way for her to immigrate from Togo so that she can join Kodjo here in Minnesota.

Teachers, students, parents, and school staff as they try to figure out what is going to take place this upcoming school year.

Front-line workers who risk their own and their family's health as they staff our grocery stores, take care of the elderly, tend to our medical needs and so many other things.

States having Covid surges, particularly Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California. We pray that national politicians get together to help all those who are out of work and help to solve the pandemic.

People in Beirut, Lebanon, who have suffered so much, especially as the result of the horrible explosion.

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

This Week:

Thursday, August 20

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

Matthew 16:13-20

7:00 pm – Session Meeting

Sunday, August 23

9:30 am – Parking lot Worship service

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

Next Week:

Tuesday, August 25

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

Wednesday, August 26

7:00 pm – Wednesday evening gathering on Zoom

Thursday, August 27

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

Matthew 16:21-28

Saturday, August 29

10:00 am – Book Club

Sunday, August 30

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



August Birthdays

Charlie Ostrem	Aug. 21
Joan Amara	Aug. 26
Elijah Reid	Aug. 29
Marcia Curley	Aug. 30

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.