



## Mid-Week Update for the week of September 6 to 13, 2020

Published September 10, 2020



### Parking lot worship this Sunday 9/13 at 9:30am! (and Zoom worship at 10:30am)

We will have outdoor worship again this Sunday. The weather forecast is for cool weather, thank the Lord! A committee has worked hard to develop clear directions and guidelines for this service. Follow the directions of the blue-shirted Parking Lot Volunteers.

1. **Be patient.** Cars will line up at the northern entrance. A greeter will meet you there, and direct you to Bob Unze, who will point you to where you should park. Ron Abrahamson and Jo Ann Schutz will then direct to the actual parking space. Cars will be parked in a staggered pattern starting from the west side of the parking lot. No one will park on the east side

of the parking lot (near garbage cans) unless we have an extra-large turn out, and, if that is the case, you will be directed by the parking lot volunteers.

2. **Remain in your car.** Tune in to the service on your radio. If you must sit outside, turn your car headlights on and David or Robin Councilman will bring you a chair in which you can sit next to or in front of your car. (Those who do not have a car will be seated in the garden by Dave or Robin Councilman—only if you do not have a car.)

3. **Do not enter the church building.** If you have a bathroom emergency, you are asked to go in through the front door only.

4. **Leave after the service is over.** After worship, you will be directed out of the parking lot. You are asked NOT to stay around and visit.

These may seem like strict guidelines. Please know that we have worked hard to come up with the simplest and safest guidelines possible. Consider this worship service an experiment to see how good we can be at following directions.

## Worship Feedback and Ideas

### Listening Time After Worship Sept. 20

In order to hear your ideas and concerns, we will have a “listening time” after worship on Sunday, September 20, starting at about 11:30am. The pastors and worship planners will stay online until we hear from everybody who has something to say.

Immediately after our Zoom worship on Sunday, September 20, rather than having a time of fellowship after the benediction, we will listen to your opinions and ideas. Please keep your eyes and ears open about what other churches are doing and what the experts are saying. The Worship Committee and Session, advised by family practitioner Robin Councilman, MD, will make the plans and set the program, but we want to hear your thoughts as we move forward in making these plans.

### Survey on Paper or By Phone



Please complete the enclosed survey about worship planning for the rest of the year. We want to hear your

concerns, ideas and opinions.

We all yearn to “go back to church,” but remember the image of magnets and metal: it will be difficult to be together and be safe. Even if we can figure out how to hold a worship service, it will be very different.

It may be possible for Peace Prez to be able to plan and carry out some fellowship activities in a safe way -- likely in smaller groups -- but it is most likely that these gatherings will NOT be before or after worship.



## From the Pastor

The motto of the Reformation, when the Protestant churches challenged Roman Catholicism, was “Reformed and always reforming!” Those words are so relevant today during the pandemic. We are challenged, not only to figure out how to worship together, but also to grapple with what it means to be a Christian. Regular Sunday morning worship services provide a much-needed quiet time for us to reflect about our lives and faith. Not being able to attend worship is hard.

I strongly encourage you to take a look at an article published this week in *Presbyterians Today*, our denomination’s magazine: The Reformation Rummage Sale (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0920-traditions/>). It describes how churches are figuring out new ways to be a church together: “morning coffee via FaceTime, fellowship in driveways, grocery shopping for one another, gift baskets for those homebound, cards and, let’s not forget, the ever effective phone calls.” As Peace Prez moves into the fall and the extension of our social distancing, let’s find new ways for us to be together. A first start is the Quick Survey on Worship included in this Mid-Week Update. And if you ever just want to talk, please don’t hesitate to call me. If I don’t answer, just leave a message. Don’t worry about bothering me. I want to be bothered!

A personal note: It looks like my husband Frank is going to have another operation again, his 16th neurosurgery since 2015. It’s both good news and bad news. It is another operation,

which are always uncertain, but the doctors think they can stop and maybe improve the deterioration in his left leg he has been experiencing. We'll let you know when the operation takes place. It may be a long wait with the Covid-19 situation. But keep in mind that, since I will not be able to visit him in the hospital or at acute in-person rehab, it would be really nice for you to bother me with a phone call to talk about church. Let's figure out new ways to "reform" ourselves into new ways of being church together.

Keep praying for each other, yourself – and the world!

Faithfully yours,  
Pastor Heidi



### **Elizabeth's Project: School Supplies for Liberia**

It has been the tradition at Peace Prez to collect school supplies for children during the

weeks before the start of the school year. This year we keep up with this tradition, but in a different way—for children in Liberia! The Mission Committee donated \$200 for a project organized by Elizabeth Greene and her mom Joan Amara Greene. They are originally from Liberia and continue to stay active with their home country. So far, 200 notebooks, 12 packs of pencils, 16 packs of pens and 21 packs of markers have been purchased and will be shipped to Liberia in November. Elizabeth herself and her mom hope to travel to Liberia in

the near future, and hope to help distribute the school supplies to different schools in rural Montserrado area of Liberia.

Elizabeth writes: "I am excited to do this project, because this time I will be in Liberia working with the kids. I would like to thank the pastor and church for believing in my dream of helping people. Because of that, this December I will be able to help lots of children with their education and that means the world to me. My country Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world. I was one of the children who would go to school with an empty stomach and not have enough school supplies.

"When I sit and think about my days back home as a child growing up in a slum community, I sometimes cry for those kids that are back home in my community. Since the devastating Ebola virus, Liberia is on its way to recovery. Before the Ebola Crisis, Liberia's growth rate was much better, but now the country's growth rate has dropped to 0.4%. In many of these slum communities, parents are petty traders and cannot afford to send their children to school or feed their families on a daily basis. Some parents are also civil servants, who don't get salaries on time, sometimes waiting up to 3 or 4 months before they get paid. Many families woke up every morning with no hope of having breakfast and have to think about how to get a meal in the afternoon.

"Before the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Liberia Education system was no better than other West African Countries. There are many challenges that the Liberia Education System faces today. Many public schools, both urban and rural, lack basic school materials. Some of the issues faced by the Education system are: High rate of

dropout students, Low enrollment rate, Lack of school supplies and textbooks, Lack of qualified instructors, Low ratio of teachers to students, etc. I felt heartbroken about the education system situation and I felt I needed to do something to help the kids going to school.”



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

### 2020 Peace & Global Witness Offering

On October 4, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and collect for our special Peace and Global Witness Offering. Next week you will receive a letter explaining how your Peace Offering will be used. Recently our Presbytery published this prayer by Rev. Carl Horton that I would like to share with you: God of Peace, as we enter this “Season of Peace”, remind us that your peace surpasses our understanding and knows no bounds. It is not for just a season. It is a yearlong, lifelong eternal gift to us and to all of your creation. Help us as your peacemakers in the time, place and season in which we find ourselves - to seek, extend and promote your peace to a world desperately in need of it.



### The Risky Business of Singing

The following is an excerpt of an article from *Presbyterians Today*, submitted by Robin Councilman.

Recently, a number of singing groups... hosted an online panel, which included medical experts and epidemiologists, to discuss the science of singing. They came to the conclusion that there

is currently no safe way to rehearse or sing together until there is a widely available COVID-19 vaccine and a 95% effective treatment.

“The collective breath is one of those things that repairs our souls, and there is something very therapeutic and very poignant about that, especially for communities of faith,” said Emily Floyd, director of music ministries at Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. “If we can’t say the Lord’s Prayer together out loud, if we can’t sing a hymn together, is worship going to feel like what we want it to feel?”

Singing together is one of the fastest ways for a group of disparate people to feel a sense of community, lifting their voices together. Singing together also offers a broad range of emotional responses.

In a time when we are not able to shake hands, pass the peace or hug, we will need to learn how to be community differently. This new way of being is going to require people experimenting, being inventive, trying to find new ways or different ways of being than we are accustomed to. It is going to take patience and understanding, and a healthy dose of flexibility.

“Our faith and hope point us to the Holy Spirit — the ruah, the breath — and we trust that the Spirit is still breathing and praying in us and connecting us as the body of Christ even when we can’t sing together,” said Rev. Dr. David Gambrell.

You can read the entire article here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0920-singing/>.



## Presbyterians Today

The Session has arranged for each member of Peace Church to receive a free one-year subscription to *Presbyterians Today* (6 issues). Watch your mailbox for the first issue to arrive in about six weeks!



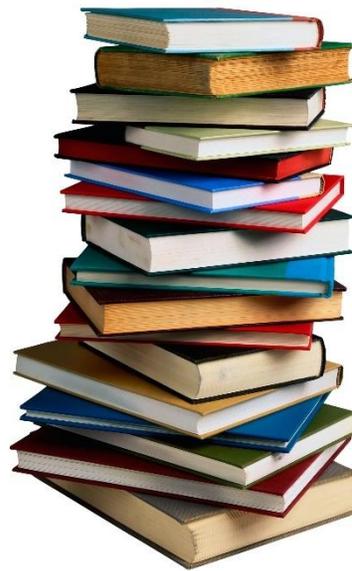
### A Day in the Life: Moments of Joy, by Katrina Bergman

The last week has been quite the eventful one for me. I got to have a weekend off and spend some time with family, something I haven't done since November of last year. Oh, and in case you hadn't heard, I got a puppy. My life since Friday has felt like it has revolved around this new life in my family. That is because it has. He has brought with him joy wherever he has gone.

George, my new pup, met my father first. And for the first time in my adult life, my father went on a walk with me. We spent 20 minutes in easy companionship because of George. This gentle little creature seems to spread extra love wherever he goes. But there have been a few times that I have also wondered, "What have I done?!" I am chuckling to myself as I write this. Like everything good, it takes work to have a puppy. And a lot of energy.

He got to meet my mom in the nursing home. She doesn't have many words these days, and she doesn't know who I am, but she lit up when I brought that rambunctious pup into the room, and he was so good with her. He made a hard moment easier.

I am left wondering, what are the things in our lives that make these current hard moments easier? Finally figuring out how to connect with that one family member on zoom? Cooler weather and changing leaves? New grandbabies? It would be so easy for me to be distracted by the hard parts of having a puppy that I missed the parts that brought love and joy. Lord, may we see those moments of joy that happen every day and cherish them.



### Book Club

The Peace Church Book Club is doing something different this month. Each member will read a different book and on September 26 we will meet in the church garden (weather permitting) at 10am and have an old fashion book report.

We will give a synopsis of the book, what we liked best, and whether we recommend others read it. It will be great fun and should add to our book bucket list. Everyone is welcome to join us!

### 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/](http://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

This week, we offer prayers:

- For the increasing number of children that are going without food in America right now
- That a Just Peace is reached for our city, state, and country
- That racism continues to be addressed in a useful, beneficial way
- For Lake Street to be rebuilt
- For the North Side of Minneapolis to be safe
- For all who are starting school: teachers, students, and workers, but particularly for our members who are on the frontlines at schools as teachers and employees
- That wearing masks would stop being turned into a political agenda and that people would start wearing them

*If you have any prayer requests that you would like printed in the Mid-Week Update, please e-mail them to [peaceprezslp@gmail.com](mailto: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, September 10

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:  
Matthew 18:21-35

#### Sunday, September 13

9:30 am – Parking lot Worship  
10:30 am – Worship service, on Zoom and Facebook

### Next Week:

#### Tuesday, September 15

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

#### Wednesday, September 16

7:00 pm – Calvin for Armchair Theologians on Zoom, Class 2 Discussion

#### Thursday, September 17

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:  
Matthew 20:1-16

#### Sunday, September 20

10:30 am – Worship service, on Zoom and Facebook  
11:30 am – Listening hour for worship ideas and concerns



## September Birthdays

Ron Taschner	Sept. 20
Emily Twedell	Sept. 25
Ellen Staib	Sept. 26
Katie Bacon	Sept. 29
Patrice Meschke	Sept. 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](mailto:peaceprezSLP@gmail.com) or 952-545-2586.