



Mid-Week Update for the week of September 13 to 20, 2020

Published September 16, 2020

Wednesday Night Calvin Class

Our weekly class on Reform Theology continues tonight at 7pm on Zoom. Tonight's class will be a discussion on the first chapter. All are welcome to join! If you'd like to get the reading, there are photocopies available outside the front door of the church.



You can also pick up your worship booklet for the next month outside the front door of the church, next to the Calvin readings. Any booklets that haven't been picked up will be sent out Thursday afternoon. If for some reason

you don't get a booklet, whether picked up at the parking lot worship or from the building, or in the mail, please contact the church office and we will send you one.



Worship Feedback and Ideas

Listening Time After Worship This Sunday, 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.

Take a Short Survey (only 5 questions!)

We have created a short survey on Survey Monkey to help us finalize worship plans for the rest of 2020. If you don't wish to use Survey Monkey, you can also call, email, or mail us your thoughts 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.

Update About Frank

Pastor Heidi posted news about her husband Frank's surgery on the CaringBridge site on Tuesday morning. CaringBridge is a way for a family member to keep people posted about the condition of someone with a medical problem. You can log on at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/frankvarde> [man](#). Here's what she posted:



SUCCESSFUL SURGERY SEPTEMBER 14, 2020. Frank has had another operation. Yesterday evening he had a three-hour surgery to clear out some gunk at the base of his spine. Although the operation had been scheduled for 12pm, it was delayed until after 5pm because an emergency had tied up the operating room.

The operation went very well. It is a common procedure. To understand what was done, think of a plant with lots of roots crowded into a too-small pot. The nerves at the base of Frank's spine had gotten all crowded up as the result of some gunk that had grown down there. The good news is that the nerves are now freed up. Frank should recover some feeling and mobility in his legs that he had lost recently. The bad news is that Frank is likely to experience a lot of pain. His newly freed-up nerves may start jumping around like kids let out for recess. The surgeon warned it is going to hurt a lot. So pray for him to get through these next few days with pain that is manageable.

For Frank's family members here in Minneapolis, this operation has been weird because we were not allowed into the hospital. I dropped him off at 10am, a hospital attendant whisked him off in one of their wheelchairs, and

that was it. Fortunately, Zest and I were able to visit Frank today, and he is doing fine.

Keep Frank in your prayers, too, because just one day prior to the surgery—Sunday, September 13—his father, also named Frank Burton Vardeman, died peacefully at his home with Frank's mom and sister with him. He was 95. The hospice nurse had thought he would hang on a week or longer, but he went quickly—which signaled to us that he was unafraid of moving on. His peaceful death was the last gift that Burt gave to his son, freeing Frank from worry so that he could go calmly into this surgery the very next day.



A Day in the Life: Persistence, by Katrina Bergman

And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. Luke 11:7-8

“Nevertheless, she persisted.” - Mitch McConnell about Elizabeth Warren, Feb. 8, 2017

Perhaps you have met them. The persistent child, dog, friend who is getting on your last nerve. Persistence is not always a welcome thing when you are on the receiving end of it. Yet it is one of the most critical life skills that we can learn. Without persistence, I never would have finished school when it felt like it was unbearably hard. And without the same persistence in training, I will forever have a very smart, very naughty puppy.

Without persistence, we would have never received some of Beethoven's best work, which was done after he had completely lost his hearing. His 9th Symphony is one of his most beloved, yet he never knew what it sounded like outside his head. In fact, he was convinced that everyone hated it at its debut, until he looked around and saw that everyone was on their feet, thunderously applauding. He never heard a sound.

In the above parable of Jesus, he has just taught his disciples to pray and he follows it up with



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. You should receive a letter this week 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.

this parable that teaches the importance of persistence when we approach God. What is it that you need to be persistent in prayer about this week? I am persistently praying for a quick, and effective, COVID vaccine. I am persistently praying for real changes in our city around the matter of racism. And I am persistently praying for our church and its efforts to stay connected in this challenging time.

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

This week, we offer prayers:

- Bonnie Okronglis' cousins in Estacada, Oregon, where the flames of fire roaring down from Mt. Hood, and for all who have been injured, become homeless, or lost a

loved one to the fires in Oregon and California.

- Nancy Kurth's daughter-in-law is undergoing surgery this Thursday.
- Frank Vardeman, who is recovering from surgery
- The family and friends of Burt Vardeman, Frank's father, who passed away this week
- For the increasing number of children that are going without food in America right now
- 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

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:

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:

Matthew 20:1-16

Katie Bacon

Sept. 29

Patrice Meschke

Sept. 30

Sunday, September 20

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

11:30 am – Listening hour for worship ideas and concerns

Next Week:

Tuesday, September 22

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

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:
Matthew 21:23-32

7:00 pm – Session Meeting

Saturday, September 26

10:00 am – Book Club Meeting

Sunday, September 27

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



September Birthdays

Ron Taschner Sept. 20

Emily Twedell Sept. 25

Ellen Staib Sept. 26

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.