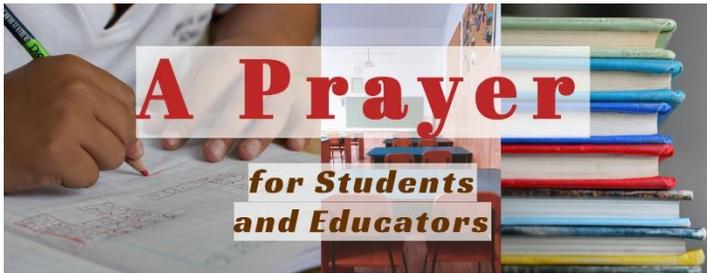




## Mid-Week Update for the week of September 20 to 27, 2020

Published September 23, 2020



### **A Prayer for All in Education**

All Holy and Loving God,

We bring before you our concern for all the teachers, students, parents, administrators, staff and school board members involved in our schools. Please guide them with your wisdom and protect them with your care.

Help teachers perceive the needs of their students even when they cannot be with them in person.

Guide students so they can learn in new ways.

Grant patience to parents who find themselves actively engaging in the education process even when they feel unprepared.

Give hope to school staff who have been laid off or who are working fewer hours or carrying out unfamiliar tasks, and give creative ideas to school boards who must make tough decisions.

You have brought us through difficult times before, gracious God, and we trust that you will bring us through this one yet again. It is in you that we have our trust and from you we seek the ability to be patient, forgiving, intelligent and strong.

Through Christ, our most beloved teacher, we pray. Amen.



### **Mission Update**

If you ever wondered if your gifts are appreciated, wonder no more. We continually get thank you notes telling us how our donations have helped especially in these trying times. In

the last few weeks, we have received letters from STEP, MyHealth For Teens and Adults and Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. We as a congregation have been able to reach out to those in need.

The lending library has returned to being a library. For several months it has contained food for anyone to take. Peace Church donated over \$200 to purchased food for this food shelf, in addition to donations by other community members. Leftover food will be donated to the food shelf. Thank you to missions and others that have contributed food to the lending library.

You should have received a letter about the Peace offering for October 4. Please read this over and see the many ways the Peace Offering helps our community. Use the enclosed envelope to send in your donation. Please write Peace Offering in the memo of your check so I can make sure it's distributed correctly.



### Installation & Ordination

On Sunday, September 13, we celebrated the installation of Jane Helsing as a deacon, during our parking lot worship; and the ordination and installation of Val Eng as church elder, during the Zoom worship service.



### Should We Continue the Daily Devotions?

We have been on a journey together during the Coronavirus Pandemic. One thing

we started when the Pandemic began, and we could no longer gather in person, was to send out a daily devotion via e-mail.

Every day, for the past 6 months, we have put out a daily devotion, focusing on the coronavirus and on racial justice. The devotions have been written by church members, Presbyterian and other faith leaders, and have utilized PC(USA)'s *These Days* devotional and prayers from the Book of Common Prayer.

This daily email takes a lot of time and effort from our office manager Beth, and with increasing demands on her time as a full-time graduate student at John's Hopkins, she has had

to cut her hours working at Peace, including ending these daily emails.

At the present moment, we have taken a pause in sending out the daily devotions, but want to know if you think we should continue the daily emails. Please email or call us to let us know your thoughts!



### Take a Short Survey (only 5 questions!)

We have created a short survey on Survey Monkey

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CY58FDH>) 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.



### A Day in the Life: Helper, by Katrina Bergman

This last week I have had the privilege of helping a member figure out how to use Zoom for the first time.

They were excited, but I guarantee I was probably more excited than they were. It is always a joy to help others. And it is a bonus that I get to chat and get to know them better while I am helping. One thing I am not especially good at, however, is asking for help when I need it. I am learning. And I am so much better than I used to be. But it is still so hard. I know that I am not alone in this struggle.

I have a friend who has breast cancer. She is on her second bout, and it is spreading. She is alone, other than her recently graduated son. She has to go through chemotherapy yet again, and she is scared and this whole COVID thing has made her isolation about 100 times worse. She has been reaching out, but it is humbling to see how much of a struggle it is to be vulnerable and let others know of her need.

She is just one person on a long list of people who are really struggling this hour, this day, this week, this year... and it is all complicated by COVID. Peace Presbyterian is quite good about working to give back to our community. But maybe you are sitting there reading this today, and you are the one struggling. And you don't want to be a bother. Maybe you are like me and have a much easier time helping than asking for help. I want to assure you today that both Heidi

and I want to be bothered. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Oh, mothering God who nurtures and cares, please be with each of us as we enter a season of shorter days, holidays and the extra stresses that come with them, and what is our continuing new, and difficult, normal. Put your soothing hand on those who are struggling. Help us to notice those around us who need extra care. Help us to speak up if we are one of those. May we have strength, courage, and stamina for what has turned into such a long journey. May we have the wisdom we need to navigate it well. Amen.

### **From the Pastor**

Thank you all for your prayers for Frank's recovery and for him and his family upon the death of his father, Burt Vardeman. He died on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 13, the day before Frank had to go in for surgery. The hospice nurse thought he would hang on five or ten more days, but he went quickly, signaling to us that he was unafraid. I think of his quick death as the last gift that he was able to give to his son so that Frank could go into surgery not worrying.



Frank Burton Vardeman Jr., known as Burt, (my husband Frank is Frank Burton Vardeman III) was a remarkable man. He was drafted out of

college in GA, became a radio operator in a bomber flying missions over Germany. He survived 62 missions with 50% mortality rates. His squadron was protected by the Tuskegee Airmen, the African American pilots. He used to say, "The Red Tails saved my life." Later in life, Burt was made an honorary Tuskegee Airman after the many speeches he made after his retirement to express his gratitude and describe the Red Tails' heroism.

He went on to work with his father-in-law, the president of Stillman College, a historically black college in Tuscaloosa, AL. Burt served as Business and Property Manager for 16 years against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement., and together they cooked up a scheme whereby the college would build modest homes and Burt's father recruited professors from Presbyterian church-related colleges to teach for free—the only payment being an agreement to live in those houses for the rest of their lives. Within four years, the college's faculty was 65% PhDs—mostly young retirees from colleges such as Macalester.

Burt went on to serve as the property manager for the Southern Presbyterian denomination. He was an elder at North Decatur Presbyterian Church, serving many years as clerk. He or his wife served, over a period of 50 years, on every single Pastor Nominating Committee that was organized.



## 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>

You can join the meeting by opening the Zoom app and entering the **meeting ID 504-676-8135**.

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 Eileen Bengry, who had heart surgery on Tuesday. She wrote, “My surgery is scheduled for Tuesday the 22nd at Methodist hospital. It will take about ninety minutes. I will be in the hospital for two to four days depending on how I'm doing. My daughter Kay will stay with me for a few days when I get home.”
- For Frank Vardeman, who is recovering from surgery and will be released from the U of M Acute Rehab on Tuesday morning.
- For Enid Curley, who is moving to Presbyterian Homes in Spring Park soon, and for Marcia Curley and family as they transition her into this next stage of life. Prayers for a smooth transition for all.
- 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
- For victims of natural disasters, including recent flooding and fires across the United States, and for continued action on climate change that exacerbates these disasters

*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:

#### Wednesday, September 23

7:00 pm – Calvin for Armchair Theologians on Zoom, Class on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Next Week:

#### Tuesday, September 29

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

#### Wednesday, September 30

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

#### Thursday, October 1

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:  
Matthew 21: 33-46

10:45 am – Dinner at your Door

#### Sunday, October 4

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



### Upcoming Birthdays

Emily Twedell	Sept. 25
Ellen Staib	Sept. 26
Katie Bacon	Sept. 29
Patrice Meschke	Sept. 30
Mary Ann Christenson	Oct. 2
Sarah Gallick	Oct. 4
Everett Bacon	Oct. 7

**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.