



Mid-Week Update for the week of August 30 to September 6, 2020

Published September 3, 2020



From the Pastor

Who could have imagined that we would be gearing up for the start of the school year under these conditions?

Earlier this summer when we were making worship plans using Zoom all the way through Christmas, I thought we were being overly-cautious, but now it appears that we don't have any idea of how/when we will worship in the same physical space again. As we've learned, physically worshipping together is a dangerous activity. Even if we do not sing together, just sitting together for an hour in the same space risks spreading the coronavirus. Even our parking lot worship has proven to be a challenge because church people are like magnets and metal: get near each other you can't keep up apart.

The challenge of being a church together has never been more daunting. We have decided to

put some serious prayer, research, thought and discussion into the issue of worshipping at Peace Prez. To this end, Pat Wilson (chair of the worship committee) and I are reaching out to YOU, members of the congregation, to get your ideas, concerns and opinions about worshipping together. We will do this in two ways:



1. Listening Time After Worship Sept. 30

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. Then bring your ideas to this after-worship discussion so we can consider all the possibilities. The Worship Committee and Session, advised by family practitioner Robin Councilman, MD, will make the plans and set the program, but we need to hear your thoughts and ideas as we move forward in making these plans.

2. Online, Paper or Phone Survey



We will prepare a brief survey online (using Survey Monkey) and in written form to get your ideas and

opinions. The survey will be sent out in the Mid-Week Update next week and mailed to the homes of those of you without internet access. In addition, volunteers will make some telephone calls as well.

We all yearn to “go back to church,” but remember the image of magnets and metal. Even if we can figure out how to hold a worship service, it will be very different. For example, a likely scenario would have you park and then wait in your car until a volunteer wearing personal protective equipment escorts you into the church and to a seat in the sanctuary. You would sit by yourself or with your household, at least six feet apart from other people during the worship service. There would be no unison singing. After the worship service, you would remain in your pew until a volunteer escorts you out. It will be very different from regular worship because our regular worship

experience is not just sitting, listening, reading aloud and praying in a worship service. It is the greeting in the beginning, the passing of the peace during, the shaking hands after and the ever-so-important coffee fellowship afterwards. It is sad but true: All those contact activities are too dangerous.

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.

Please know that, as your pastor, I am committed to putting in some serious time and effort to figuring out a way for us to move forward together and invite you to join with me to figure out the next steps. These are uncertain times. There are no blueprints. We have to make this up as we go along. Beginning this process of listening, planning, thinking, researching and discussing, we follow the advice of Martin Luther King: “Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step”.

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Heidi

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!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

2020 Peace & Global Witness Offering

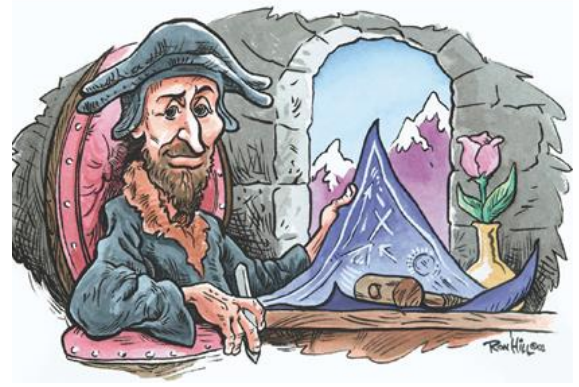
September and October is the time when the Presbyterian Church (USA) receives an annual offering to support the work of peacemaking across the world. There are both national and local components to the offering:

- 50% of each congregation's offering supports the PCUSA Mission Agency in their work advocating for peace and justice around the world.
- 25% stays with your congregation for your own peacemaking work.
- 25% is directed to one or more organizations selected by the PTCA Mission & Witness Committee.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic struggle and unemployment, the Presbytery Mission Committee has decided to focus the PTCA portion of this offering toward meeting the need of **food insecurity**. It will go to support Feeding America, which works with Second Harvest Heartland in the Twin Cities and STEP locally.

SLP Housing List Opens

The City of St. Louis Park will open its waiting list for five-bedroom public housing (for between 6 and 10 people) on Tuesday, September 15 at 8:00 am. The list will close on Thursday, September 17 at 4:00 pm. You must meet income and eligibility requirements to apply. Sign-up is online at www.waitlistcheck.com/MN1945. The full announcement is available upon request.



Calvin For Armchair Theologians

Katrina and Heidi's class on Reformed Theology began last night, but you're welcome to join next week even if you missed the first class. This book is easy to read, short, and even has pictures! September 9th we will have the first class based on the reading from the 1st chapter of the book. All classes will be at 7pm. The schedule is:

Sept. 9th – FIRST CLASS

Sept. 16th – Optional Discussion class

Sept. 23rd – SECOND CLASS

Sept. 30th – Optional Discussion class

Oct. 7th – THIRD CLASS

Oct. 14th – Optional Discussion class

Oct. 21st – FOURTH CLASS

Oct. 27th – Optional Discussion & Wrap-up

If you don't have a copy of the book yet, there are a few available, and you can order it on Amazon for between \$6 and \$16. You can follow the link to Amazon to purchase the book.

<https://www.amazon.com/Calvin-Armchair-Theologians-Christopher-Elwood/dp/0664223036/>

We hope to see you there!



A Day in the Life: Welcoming Change, by Katrina Bergman

Change is a natural part of life. Right now, we are starting to see the trees change color, showing that summer will soon be changing to fall. As I was walking dogs, I saw the geese were already starting to flock up and prepare to head south for the winter. The dogs, both hunting dogs, made sure that I did not miss this fact! And in my own life I am preparing to transition from teaching music, which I have done for over 20 years, to a new chapter in my life: being a full-time pastor.

This week I will also be welcoming a different kind of change to my life. A new puppy! For the first time in my entire adult life, I am home most of the time. It has seemed like a good time to welcome a puppy into my home, and so I have been searching for one for three months. This last week I finally found one that I believe will be a lovely addition to my home. I will be calling him George, and he is a black German Shorthair Pointer. He will be an energetic addition to my family and will force me to get up and walk every single day. I am going to be so tired! But I also cannot wait!

Pup-ifying the house has also brought more change. To make room for another kennel and a big dog in my teeny, tiny place, I have had to rearrange everything. This has been a long-needed activity, so the new addition has just forced what already needed to be done. And it seems like that is how change works. It comes along and forces us to do some things that we

have been putting off for too long. Today I am thankful for change.



An article from the STEP Newsletter:

COVID Has Changed Our Model, But Not Our Spirit

Maryanne Abeid, Operations Manager

For all of the challenges and difficulties before us, the sense of comradery at STEP is palpable. Despite the changes, STEP is still STEP.

It seems generous to call these last several months a challenge. **We at STEP have had to make significant adjustments to our operations to keep people safe and make sure that our neighbors get the food and assistance they need.** Our volunteer crew—once our largest workforce—has gone from 120 to about 16. And since we can no longer safely have clients come in to shop, our small crew of staff and volunteers are getting grocery orders ready for curbside pick-up. This has been a challenge, but with our mission in mind, we have set out to do our best.

For many years STEP has offered a client choice shopping model. Often choice is taken from people with limited resources, which is why we have committed ourselves to finding solutions that offer as much choice as possible to anyone needing assistance. When it became evident that we needed to close our building to the public, we searched for a food distribution model that offered as much choice as possible. Now when someone needs food, they call in to place an order and choose a pick-up time. Once

the order is placed, we pack those orders and get them ready for pick-up. All orders are picked up at the back door, keeping best practices of social distancing and masking at the forefront.

We are asked regularly if/when we will be open again for shopping, and to that we have no good answer beyond “Soon, we hope.” But those questions are quickly followed by expressions of gratitude and encouragement to stay healthy and safe. Clients who have lost wages due to COVID tell us the relief they feel that they can still feed their families healthy meals despite all the other uncertainties they face. We all see the smiles under the masks, and we wish each other well until the next time we meet.



Send us a photo of you as a child!

We have only received a few pictures, so please send in yours today! We are experimenting with having some slide shows during our Zoom and 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.

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

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, who is in a coma, and family.

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.

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 2

11:00 am – Mission Group Meeting

7:00 pm – Calvin for Armchair Theologians,
Intro

Thursday, September 3

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:
Matthew 18:15-20

10:45 am – Dinner at your Door

Sunday, September 6

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

Next Week:

Tuesday, September 8

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

Wednesday, September 9

7:00 pm – Calvin for Armchair Theologians,
Class 1

Thursday, September 10

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

Sunday, September 13

10:30 am – Parking lot Worship, also streamed
on Zoom and Facebook



September Birthdays

Bonnie Okronglis	Sept. 2
Donna Taschner	Sept. 7
Wade Danielson	Sept. 8
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 or 952-545-2586.