



Mid-Week Update for the week of September 27 to October 4, 2020

Published September 30, 2020



Mission Update

This week we received a note from People Serving People, an emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness. They wanted to thank us for our gift of \$200. One donor wrote to PSP, “We’re in uncharted waters. I can’t predict the future, but I know your services and support are needed more than ever. Thank you for all that you do for those who need it most.” PSP said, “We turn that sentiment back to you, Peace Presbyterian Church, and want to share our deep appreciation for your commitment to supporting families.”

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 4, we donate to Peace & Global Witness Offering. As active peacemakers we work to share God’s peace in our community, beyond our doors and around the world. Your gift will be used to make this possible one step at a time.

Please Note: Pastor Heidi on Leave

Pastor Heidi is on leave this week and next week, to take care of Frank after his surgery and continue modifying their house to accommodate Frank. She will be leading worship on Sunday, but she will not be running the weekly meetings. Instead, Bill Chadwick, retired pastor of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and an old friend of ours, will host the Zoom prayer group on Tuesday and the Bible study on Thursday. Any pastoral concerns can be directed to Katrina Bergman, our seminarian intern.



Westminster Town Hall Forum

Virtual Westminster Town Halls

Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis has moved their town hall series online this fall. The forums will be broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio, and streamed on their website www.westminsterforum.org. Their line-up is as follows:

Tuesday, October 6, at 12p: Election 2020: Securing the Vote, with Maria Teresa Kumar

Tuesday, October 27, at 12p: Building a Movement to Stop Climate Change, with Bill McKibben

Tuesday, November 10, at 12p: James Baldwin's Lessons on Race in America, with Eddie Glaude, Jr.



A Day in the Life: Grace, by Katrina Bergman

I have a very large family. Very large. There are 13 children on my mother's side and 10 children on my father's side. I counted it up once and I have 64 first cousins. 64. And that's not even counting their children, spouses, my three siblings...well, you get the picture.

One of my fondest memories growing up was communal mealtime where all the family on my

dad's side would stuff ourselves into my grandparent's farmhouse and we would fight and love and do life all together for a few short days during the holidays. I come from a long line of smart alecks and it never failed that, right before every single mealtime, all my uncles would start yelling, "Grace! Grace!"

I'm afraid that I was a bit dim. I was constantly trying to figure out which aunt, uncle, or cousin named "Grace" I wasn't remembering. I am embarrassed to say that it wasn't until my adulthood that I realized the part of the conversation I had missed was my grandmother saying it was time to say grace. I am still partly convinced that I have a secret auntie named Grace.

It is not surprising I was confused. Grace is, after all, a fairly common name. It can be a kind of prayer that we speak and something that we hope to receive from those who love us. We can be "graceful," and the bible describes people as having "grace on their lips." (Ps. 45:2) Jesus is described as being full of "grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14) and Stephen was full of "grace and power." (Acts 6:8) Barnabas could see "the grace of God" in the Gentile Christians of Antioch when he went to visit them and see if the Holy Spirit really visited the non-Jews too. (Acts 11:23)

Grace. I was taught that it meant "unmerited favor." Yet, as I read through the above list of all that it is, and I think that definition is flat and devoid of life compared to the richness of what grace means. And I wonder if I understand it any better today than I did all those years ago when my father and uncles were yelling it out before our family meal.



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/. 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

A prayer for the nation: Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage.

Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Make us who come from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This week, we offer prayers:

- For Eileen Bengry and Frank Vardeman, who are recovering from surgery
- For Laura Simonson, who had an appendectomy on Saturday, and is doing much better now
- For our country during this lead-up to an unprecedented election. We pray that everyone will be able to vote freely, fairly, and safely, and that we can come together in spite of political differences
- For states and nations whose leaders are pursuing political goals ahead of health goals in their coronavirus policy, including Florida and China.

We offer thanks:

- for technologies like Zoom that keep us in contact with others
- for the leadership and friendship of people at Peace Church, our one big family
- for the beauty of this autumn season

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 30

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

Thursday, October 1

10:30 am – Bible Study with Bill Chadwick, on Zoom: Matthew 21:12-17 (plus Mark 11:15-17 and John 2:13-16 if time)

10:45 am – Dinner at your Door

Sunday, October 4

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

Next Week:

Tuesday, October 6

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

Wednesday, October 7

11:00 am – Mission Group Meeting
7:00 pm – Calvin for Armchair Theologians on Zoom, Class on Chapter Three

Thursday, October 8

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:
Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 11

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



Upcoming Birthdays

Patrice Meschke	Sept. 30
Mary Ann Christenson	Oct. 2
Sarah Gallick	Oct. 4
Everett Bacon	Oct. 7
Dennis Hovdenes	Oct. 13
Robin Councilman	Oct. 14
Susan Tolchiner	Oct. 17
Elizabeth Greene	Oct. 18
Jinny Hilf	Oct. 21
Jane Helsing	Oct. 24
Pat Wilson	Oct. 28

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.