



## Mid-Week Update for the week of October 11 to 18, 2020

Published October 15, 2020

### Our Last (And Best!) Parking Lot Worship Service



Many thanks to our volunteers this past Sunday for helping with traffic, directions, and all the little things. And thanks to Pastor Heidi, Katrina, Patrice, and Kent for a great service and music.

## From the Pastor

Our last Parking Lot service was the best ever! Wasn't it lovely to hear Kent, Katrina, and Patrice singing three-part harmony? Our blue shirted parking lot volunteers have gotten good at directing traffic, and being able to worship "in person" at our regular hour (10:30) rather than the earlier summer time (9:30) made it feel a bit like the way it used to be. . .but it wasn't and it breaks my heart to realize that it will be months before we will be able to gather together again.

Some churches are not making it through this terrible time of physical isolation, but Peace Prez is holding together—at least for the most part. What worries me is those of you who are not connected by internet and cannot participate in worship by way of Zoom or Facebook. To be separated from your church community for a short time, even a few months, is survivable, but as we move into a longer period of separation, we need to figure out new ways to connect even as we continue the practices that have proven successful already: virtual Sunday worship, Tuesday and Thursday morning, class and occasional get-togethers on Wednesday nights. In the next few weeks, we will begin discussions about organizing some small (eight people or so) inside-the-church weekday gatherings, with everyone at least six feet apart and wearing masks.

The past month has taught me a lot about what it feels like to be separated from my church community. A month ago, Sept. 13, Frank had his 16th neurosurgery and stayed in the hospital a few days and then moved to acute rehab for 10 days. He was discharged on a Tuesday, was at home for a week, but then was readmitted to the hospital with a nasty bacterial infection. He

stayed for almost another week. The session gave me extra time off while all this medical stuff was going on, and my attention shifted from paying attention to my family *and* my church family, to only paying attention to my family. The good news is that Frank is now home and better than ever. The bad news is that I am way behind in my work and feeling disconnected from you all.

All this makes me think that I may be feeling like many of you, who do not usually spend as much energy as a pastor usually does focused on Peace Church—which inspires me to work harder to figure out ways for all of us to connect and *be* the church together.

There is an expression that "the best is yet to come." Let us pray hard that this is the case for Peace Prez—and in the interim let us celebrate what we have. Let us use our creativity to figure out how to be church together.

Yours, in Christ,  
Pastor Heidi



## An Update from Pat Wilson

What a wonderful outdoor service on Sunday! It was a great way to have our last hurrah to being outside. Such a wonderful service, sermon, and music, right down to the benediction. Most of us don't realize the work that goes into these outdoor services. There is so much extra work like directing traffic, handing out bulletins, collecting offering, plus all the technical setup. To all of you, we say a big Thank You for giving us these special Sundays. You are appreciated!

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. To date, you have donated \$1,490.



## VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Our religious tradition emphasizes civic engagement as one important way to demonstrate our faith. When we live our faith, it's not just something that goes on internally in ourselves, or even in our churches, but through acting in the world. This upcoming election is one of the most important ones in our lifetimes. Please vote! You might consider following the example of Charlie Koehler who was the *third person* in all of St. Louis Park to do early voting at the St. Louis Park city hall. He wanted to be the first voter, but someone beat him to the punch.

In her last sermon, our pastor told us how to vote. She admonished us to vote for policies that and candidates who foster spiritual values of generosity, forgiveness, and love. Pray before you vote. Ask for God's guidance. Then follow your conscience. And VOTE VOTE VOTE!!!



## All Saints Day

All Saints Day is coming up shortly, on November 1. Each year we honor loved ones who have died in the past year. If there is someone you would like to remember during this service, please send their name and a picture to Beth in the office by October 29.



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

I love the fall. It is beautiful. The trees are in full color. The leaves are crunching under your feet. The air is crisp and refreshing and a relief from the heavy weight of summer heat. I love taking Georgie for a walk on a bright, sunny, fall day. It is one of my favorite times of year. It is easy to forget that it is also a time of melancholy. Of death and hibernation and loss. Of endings. I suppose that it is appropriate that my time at Peace is coming to an end in the fall.

I just met with the committee for preparation for ministry (CPM) on Monday, and everything is set for me to go before the CPM in December for approval to move toward Candidacy. Assuming everything is approved, that will signal a new season of quiet preparation. For me it will be a time, much like winter, where the world seems still and silent, yet under all the snow, things are lurking, preparing for new growth and a new season.

I am thankful for the growth that I have experienced at Peace Presbyterian and the ways it has readied me for another step along my journey. But I am also thankful that I get to enjoy these last few crisp and bright days of fall with Peace.



## Prayers

A Prayer for the Nation:

O Lord, our governor, your glory shines throughout the world. We commend our nation to your merciful care, that we may live securely in peace and may be guided by your providence. Give all in authority the wisdom and strength to know your will and to do it. Help them remember that they are called to serve the people as lovers of truth and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*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.*

## 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/>

## 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, October 14**

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

**Thursday, October 15**

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:  
Matthew 22:15-22

**Sunday, October 18**

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

**Next Week:**

**Tuesday, October 20**

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

**Wednesday, October 21**

7:00 pm – Calvin for Armchair Theologians on  
Zoom, Class on Chapter 4

**Thursday, October 22**

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom:  
Matthew 22:34-46  
7:00 pm – Session Meeting

**Sunday, October 25**

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

**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.



**October Birthdays**

Susan Tolchiner	Oct. 17
Elizabeth Greene	Oct. 18
Jinny Hilf	Oct. 21
Jane Helsing	Oct. 24
Pat Wilson	Oct. 28