



## Mid-Week Update for the week of January 4 to January 10, 2021

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### From the Pastor

#### Let's Look for the New in the New Year!

This morning we awoke to some very good news indeed: the state of Georgia has elected the Rev. Dr. Gabriel Warnock as a U.S. Senator. He becomes the first Black senator in the state's history. Dr. Warnock's election is especially meaningful to Frank and me, as he received his theological training at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, our alma mater, where he was tutored in the same social gospel that puts concern for the poor and disenfranchised front and center in our politics and spiritual lives. After waking up at 3am this morning, I timidly opened my computer to get Georgia's election results. I then stood in my kitchen and cried. There really is something *new* in 2021. This is good news indeed.

There's other good news, too, such as the news that the vaccine is coming. How appropriate that in our congregation the first person to get the first jab of the vaccine was David Councilman, a family practice MD who has been working at Hennepin County Medical Center with many COVID patients among his

charges. One of his shifts in December was 7 am to 7 pm for 7 days. Let us be grateful that Minnesota has an orderly plan for people to get the vaccine, with medical people first, nursing home residents next and then on down the system. Everyone will have their turn. Let us thank God for the scientists, researchers, producers, workers and everyone else who brought forth this medicine in record time.

In our Tuesday morning bible study, Nancy Kurtz reminds us to pay attention to Isaiah 43: "Behold, I am doing a new thing. It springs forth. Do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

On Sunday, our gospel text will be Matthew 4:1-11, the story of Jesus' baptism by John in the River Jordan. Baptism is understood as a new birth into a community faith. Let's remember that all of us have been baptized, as Jesus was, and we took on a new life as God's children. Let us give thanks for all the good news that is coming our way.

Faithfully yours, Pastor Heidi



## Happy Birthday, Janet Armajani!

We give thanks for **Janet Armanjani** who is about to turn 90 on January 12. We are encouraging everyone to send her a birthday card. Her address is 3703 Baker Road, Minnetonka, MN 55305.

We will plan for a drive-up birthday parade at a later date. There are plans afoot to organize a drive-by birthday party for her in a couple months – maybe around Easter – when the weather clears us. Happy Birthday, Janet. We are glad you were born!



## Missions Update

This week we received a note from STEP thanking Peace Church for our continued support since 1975. Due to the pandemic this year there was not a Christmas toy shop. In its place STEP handed out Target gift cards to families so they could buy Christmas presents. Through the generosity of Intermission and money in the STEP fund, Eileen Unze was able to purchase \$1000.00 worth of Target gift cards for STEP. Our hearts are filled with gratitude

knowing we could be a part of helping many families have a blessed Christmas.

**Put Your Stimulus Check to Effective Mission Use --** The Mission Committee offers you an opportunity to donate to the needy in our community. There are many families in crisis for many reasons especially during this COVID crisis. It occurred to us that when we receive \$600 stimulus checks from the federal government, we might want to donate some or all of that money. At today's meeting the Mission committee made a commitment to do research to find out the most responsible and effective organizations who are helping the neediest in our community. If you feel called to donate some of your check, please send a check to Peace Presbyterian with "Missions" in the memo line. We promise to do the research and get the funds to responsible organizations that will get the funds to the people who need them.



## Happy New Year!

To my church family, it's nice to pause and think about the passing of time.

A dear friend of mine sent me this Happy New Year video of Auld Lang Syne, sung by Norwegian Sissel Kyrkjebø. Happy New Year to you all! You can access the video by entering this URL: <https://youtu.be/Rtajxo8d7js>

I arrived in Florida on December 30 to my winter home. I look forward to seeing you in the spring (and sometimes on Zoom on Sunday mornings!) Blessings!

Jane Helsing



## Souper Bowl of Caring

The pandemic will not stop our Souper Bowl of Caring! When you come by the church to pick up your February bulletin booklet on Saturday, January 30th, please bring a can of soup -- or a check made out to "Peace Church" -- to donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Peace Church has for many years collected soup around Super Bowl Sunday. The food and checks will be donated to STEP, the Saint Louis Park Emergency Program.



## Events This Week

**Thursday, January 7** – 10:30 am Zoom Bible Study. We will be discussing Matthew 4:1-11, the Baptism of Jesus.

**Tuesday, January 12** – 10:30 am Zoom Morning Prayer Group.



## Session Members

**January 17** – Deadline for ALL of your committee reports due at the church office. See last year's annual report (Session Member's Portal on the church website) and use it as an example, should you need one.

**January 21** - Next Session meeting, where your committee reports will be formally accepted and the budget approved.

**February 7** - Annual Congregational Meeting following service at 12:00 noon.

Terry Kubista



## Prayers

**A New Year's Prayer:** Take a deep breath and be present every moment of every day of 2021. Love with intention. Be the Church. Practice radical hospitality. Celebrate others. May the

grace of God fill your days so that you cannot help but respond to all of life with exuberant joy!

Prayers for our country as the COVID-19 vaccine distribution continues. We pray for an equitable distribution and a compassionate focus on those in the greatest need.

**Robin Councilman** reports that she has been vaccinated and Dave will soon be getting his second shot. She was both worried and relieved that her parents, who live in Florida, slept out all night to receive their first shot in Florida's "first come, first served" distribution system! She is thankful that Minnesota has a better way of distributing the vaccine.

**Jake Hamilton** is thrilled with his new apartment in the lower level of house right across the street from the Councilman's. He gave our Tuesday morning chat/prayer group a virtual tour of this nice apartment. We were especially impressed with the orange counter top and blue walls in his kitchen in honor of one of his beloved sports teams. Congratulations Jake on this step in your independence! His new address is 8800 Westmoreland Lane, St. Louis Park 55426.

Gratitude for our excellent office manager **Beth Wootten** who provided incalculable help keeping our church running during the pandemic. Her last day with us was Dec. 31. She continues in her graduate program in international studies focused on China. Her program is at Johns Hopkins University's international center in Washington DC and Tsinghua University (China's version of MIT) in Beijing. Beth is currently taking courses online but looks forward to studying in DC and China as soon as things open up. She hopes to join the foreign service.

**Mary Ann Christenson** is awaiting the birth of her very first great grandchild who is due in about a week's time. He (they think it will be a boy) will be born in New York City.

**John Maier** gives thanks that his son Mark is doing well. He also gives thanks for his kitchen window from which he is able to see the parking lot of Target. At night he also can see airplanes that fly high in the sky. There are two flight patterns that go directly over his building. Every time he sees the airplanes, he prays for all the people in them, and all people who are traveling.

**Pastor Heidi and her husband Frank** received a grant from the Presbyterian Board of Pensions which made it possible for them to replace the door that Frank uses to enter their house. There used to be a 3" rise between the door and the deck that had a little ramp on it. Last summer Frank's foot got caught on the ramp and he toppled over, landing on his front with his wheelchair (connected to him by a safety belt) on top of him. No injuries besides a skinned knee, but both his doctor and physical therapist insisted that the door be improved so this did not happen again. The new door and storm door cost a bundle because they had to be custom made (42" wide), but they work like a dream. This grant program is made possible through the Christmas Joy Offering.

There is also a new front door at the Vardaman's. It has a glass insert. Frank now can see who is at the front door and is even able to open the door when someone comes so he can tell delivery people to come around to the back where the accessible door is. Thank you all for contributing to the offering that made this grant possible.

**Joan Amara Green and Elizabeth Green** are visiting family back in Liberia. Pray for their safe travels, and especially their safe return home.

We pray for those who are the most vulnerable: those who are sick, people in jails and prisons who are exposed to the Covid-19 virus at alarming rates, the frail elderly, and all those who care for them.

*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

Click on this link for all Church events:

<https://zoom.us/j/5046768135>

You can also open 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

### This Week:

**Thursday, January 7**

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

**Sunday, January 10 – Baptism of Our Lord**

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

### Next Week:

**Tuesday, January 12**

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

**Thursday, January 14**

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

**Sunday, January 17**

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

Session members, your reports are due today.

### Upcoming Dates:

**Saturday, January 30**

11:00 to 1:00 pm – Distribution of the February bulletin booklet. Watch for more details about pictures being taken that day for an Easter celebration video!

**Sunday, February 7**

Annual Congregational Meeting following service at 12:00 noon.



### Upcoming Birthdays

Marty Landsem	Jan. 6
Charles Koehler	Jan. 11
Janet Armajani	Jan. 12

Eunice Goodrich	Jan. 14
Alex Staib	Jan. 15
Frank Vardeman	Jan. 19
Scott Volk	Jan. 27
Hadley Howard	Jan. 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 Patrice by Wednesday morning. Please email or call [peaceprezSLP@gmail.com](mailto:peaceprezSLP@gmail.com) or 952-545-2586.