



**Midweek Update for the week of  
April 11 – April 17, 2021  
Published April 14, 2021**

**From Jean Emmons, Moderator of the  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area**



*They have treated the wound of my people  
carelessly, saying, “Peace, peace,”  
when there is no peace.  
(Jeremiah 6:14)*

Daunte Wright’s life *matters*. Yet his life was stolen by tragic and absolutely preventable violence from police.

We, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, lift up the soul-level exhaustion of the Black community - both within our presbytery and in our wider society. Our Black siblings are beloved, made in God’s image, and deserve safety, joy and thriving. Their voices and advocacy call *all of us* to join together in the work for change.

Yes, we must pray... *and*, as a majority-white presbytery, our faithful prayers must be matched with transformative actions within ourselves and our systems. In this moment, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on what truly matters: reforming our hearts *and our systems*, including our systems of policing.

**We must not mistake quiet streets for  
peace.**

**We must not accept explanations as  
innocence.**

## **We must not equate protests of lament for “violence.”**

This is our prayer, our lament, and our confession - and it is one that must take root in our lives and change us going forward.

*Jean Emmons, Moderator  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area*

## **From the Pastor**

### **Let Our Pain Be “Birth Pangs of A New Age”**

Judging from the conversations I have had with some of you and the prayers offered at our Zoom gatherings, I perceive distress, confusion and pain as we grapple with the murder of George Floyd and now the murder of Daunte Wright. Who would believe it? While the trial of a police officer charged with killing one Black man is going on, another white police officer kills another Black man. Minnesota again is on the world stage, not for our beautiful lakes, creative arts or inventive industry but because of violence, racism and problems with the police. Our neighbor has been left on the side of the road. This time he is not just beaten but killed.

As your pastor, let me encourage you to be upset. Listen to Daunte Wright’s mother, and the mothers and family members of those who have been killed by police. Take it personally. And ask for God’s help to understand what happened and for guidance about what we can do.

The only good thing I can see about what is going on right now is that we white people are beginning to be more affected by this violence than we were before. We are beginning to take it personally. Some of you have told me about sleepless nights and feelings of anxiety. As uncomfortable as this experience is, perhaps these feelings are “the birth pangs of a new age” (Matthew 24:8). Those of us who have given birth know that it hurts a lot. It’s hard work but worth it.

Pay attention to your anxiety and worry. Don’t just run away from it. Instead, use this opportunity to examine issues of race and racism, this history of violence in American society, the militarization of the police. I am in the process of searching for good materials on these subjects for us to read or listen to together so we might better understand what is going on and our complicity with it. One of the most productive ways to think about racism is as sin. We did not create it. We inherited it: an “original sin.” We are surrounded by it. We participate in it. We confess it. It is our responsibility to examine it, understand it and to ask God for help us to stop doing it.

Grappling with the legacy of racism is a deeply spiritual matter. Issues of race and ethnocentricity are found throughout the Bible. Jesus deliberately broke racial taboos. He told a parable with the good guy who was of a hated Samaritan ethnic minority (Luke 10: 25-27), talked with a Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-26) and healed the daughter of a Canaanite (Syro - Phoenician) woman (Matthew 15:21-28). Jesus challenged the common wisdom of his day which considered these non-Jews to be unclean and unworthy. He

called us to overcome racial, ethnic, and national identities. When at the end of Matthew (Matthew 28) his disciples are told to “make disciples of all nations” the original Greek word is *ethnos*. We to be in communion with all ethnicities.

Let our distress be “the birth pangs of a new age” (Matthew 24:8). I will be in touch soon with some suggestions about what we might read and discuss as we, together, strive to come to terms with the distress and suffering in our community and in ourselves.



## Missions Update

# One Great HOUR OF SHARING

Thank you to the many people who have contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Our final count is \$2330. Even though we as a church are

small in number ... Even though our church building has been closed due the pandemic ... It doesn't matter to the people of Peace Church. They just give.

Pat Wilson

## Session Receives Requests for Use of Building from Science and Industry



Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago

### Science

The first one came from a scientist who conducts research on micrometeorites. Scott Peterson asked for access to the church building's roof to conduct research. He explained:

“I find suitable roofs simply by looking on Google Earth. I looked at your roof (Peace Presbyterian Church) and it looks perfect for what I am trying to do.” You might be interested in taking a look at an exhibit the scientist did at the Bell Museum on the U of MN campus:

<https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/blog/city-stardust-micrometeorites/>

### Industry

We have also received a request from a company, USI (US Internet), proposing that we might allow the company to store some equipment in our building in exchange for internet service. This is a far more complicated issue so a task force has been appointed to

investigate the offer and make a recommendation. We'll keep you posted.

## Remember You Are Invited to Use the Church Building!

Peace Prez members are welcome to make use of our lovely – and accessible -- church building to meet with family and friends. As our medical advisor Robin Councilman tells us, “It’s all about the air.” If you are planning a get together it is best to do it outside, but if outside is not possible it is safer to meet in a larger space like the church building rather than your home. Our church has set guidelines for the use of our building and an easy way to set it up.

Contact Terry Kusbista has been appointed our “Building Tsar” with authority to give you permission to use the building. You can contact him by e-mail at [terrykubista@gmail.com](mailto:terrykubista@gmail.com) or phone (952) 546-9058. We will schedule one gathering each day.



## Zoom Gatherings This Week

**Thursday, April 15** – 10:30 am Zoom Bible Study. We will be discussing John 3: 1-7, Jesus Visits Nicodemus.

**Sunday, April 18**

10:30 am – Zoom worship.

**Tuesday, April 20**

10:30 am – Morning conversation and prayer, on Zoom. Everyone welcome!

## Prayers



Prayers for ...

**Just and effective vaccinations** against the Corona virus and that more people might be persuaded to get the vaccine.

**The family of Chuck Leininger**, who passed away peacefully on April 4, 2021. A Memorial service will be held 11 am Friday April 16, at Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina.

**Rose Ann, Donna Taschner’s sister** who is in hospice in South Dakota . . . and for **Donna**, too, as she goes through chemotherapy.

**Aaron Councilman, prayers of joy!** He will be starting a PhD program in computer science this coming fall at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**Teachers, students, families, school staff, administrator and school boards** as they deal with the legacy of the pandemic. As there are great challenges to overcome, they need our prayers.

*If you have 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

### This Week

#### Thursday, April 15

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom. Text will be the story of Nicodemus coming to talk to Jesus in the middle of the night: **John 3: 1-7.** **What does it mean to be “born again”???**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’”

#### Sunday, April 18

10:30 am – Zoom worship.

### Next Week

#### Tuesday, April 20

10:30 am – Morning conversation and prayer, on Zoom. Everyone welcome!

#### Thursday, April 22

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom  
7:00 pm – Session meeting, on Zoom.

#### Saturday, April 24

12-2pm – May bulletin pick-up

#### Sunday, April 25 – Celebrating Earth Day

10:30 am – Worship on Zoom.

**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.



### Upcoming Birthdays

Enid Curley	April 16
Florian Okronglis	April 18
Sam Schmeling	April 21
Karen Meyer	April 23

Aaron Councilman      April 25

Anjel Starr              April 26

## **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.

If you need a phone buddy, call the church beforehand at (952) 545-2586, leave a message and we will set it up for you.

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/>