

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1503 2ND AVE NE
ROCHESTER, MN 55906



PONDERINGS OF PASTOR PAUL

Greetings Friends of Peace Church –

I want to share with you what is happening around Peace Church! First and foremost, thank you again for all of your love and support in the ministry we share! I was reminded and empowered by your faithful presence to and for others this last Sunday as we closed our worship service with the beautiful hymn, "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds"

***Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life
is like to that above***

***We share each other's woes,
each other's burden bear,
And often for each other flows
a sympathizing tear.***

I am continually amazed by the way that we, Peace Church, share with each other in our joys and our burdens in such powerful ways. We are bound together by God's amazing grace and unquestionable love! Thank you to all who share the resurrection hope and Spirit with others. Thank you!

I want to bring everyone up-to-speed on the ministry currently taking place.

Special thanks to Dawn and Scott Bradley for creating and beautifying our Lenten garden this year.



WORSHIP

The biggest question I get is, "When can we worship together again?" The only answer I have is, "I really don't know... No one knows." I can share with you that we have coordinated and planned services to be done on-line through the end of August. Our sincere hope and desire, however, is to have some form of "in-person" worship prior to that. I visited with our Conference Minister, Rev. Shari Prestemon, about this issue, and she shared that there is a concerted effort being made by the major main-line denominations, health care professionals, and the Minnesota state government to have clear guidelines and date expectations in place soon as to how, and when, faith communities can start worshipping and meeting together again. No matter when and how we once again worship together, our biggest concern and priority is the safety and well-being of our congregation. Again, I will do a HAPPY DANCE when we finally begin worshipping together in person, and we will provide ample expectations and preparations so all will be comfortable and safe.

Until then, we will continue providing our ON-LINE WORSHIP service at 9:00a on Sunday mornings. You are able to view LIVESTREAM the worship services on both our webpage (peacechurchucc.org) and on our Facebook page (Peace United Church of Christ – Rochester). The recorded version will be available after that as well. Thanks to our great tech staff for making this a reality. I also want to lift up our INCREDIBLE musicians who provide beautiful and creative music moments for us!

PEACE CHURCH



www.peacechurchucc.org

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PASTORAL CARE

I invite you to please keep everyone in our thoughts and prayers – especially our front-line essential workers. I also ask that you would lift up the incredible researchers here at Mayo Clinic who are working tirelessly to find ways of treating COVID-19. We are blessed to have such incredible medical folks in our backyard!

Additionally, please keep in your prayers all of our folks who are in care facilities – many who have been quarantined to their rooms for several weeks. Please also pray for those who are in their homes, but unable to engage outside of their homes. And most of, please continue praying for those who have been directly impacted by the Coronavirus.

As this situation continues, we are experiencing an increase in the number of people who are experiencing heightened mental health issues. If you know of anyone who is in need, in any way, please contact the church office and/or a health professional.

And finally, please pray for all those who have experienced a job loss and/or reduction in their salaries due to the Coronavirus situation. Remember, we are all together on this journey and we share with one another as best we are able.

CALLING TREE

As part of our ministry to our congregation, a Calling Tree has been established that each member/family of the congregation will be contacted. We have over 25 people calling members of Peace Church. They are simply calling to check up with you on how you are doing and/or if there is anything the church or I can do for you. So, please share what your needs are and we will respond as best we are able.



CONFIRMATION

I mentioned in our last month's newsletter that our Confirmation program got derailed due to the Coronavirus situation. We have met with the Confirmands and parents and to honor their work and commitment, we have decided that we will delay our I-CONFIRM celebration and the actual Confirmation Sunday until the fall. Our Confirmands continue to be engaged as they work on their final project, create their stoles, and complete their assigned work. They are a GREAT GROUP of teens

OUTREACH

While we are not able to provide direct connection with the various ministries and agencies we support, we ask you to continue providing gifts of love to these agencies so they are able to continue their incredible work for so many. Please continue to support Family Promise (IHN), LINK, Project Legacy, and the Women's Shelter by contacting these agencies directly.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

With the growing demand for food, our LITTLE FREE PANTY is greatly utilized by those in our community who are in need. Since we have not been able to meet "in-person" nor has the church been regularly open, food items have not been able to be dropped off. I have decided that I can safely and effectively work in the church office, so I have begun to be at Peace Church relatively consistently during most days (there are occasional times that I am not available). Debby and Clare are periodically at the church office as well during the day, so the doors are normally open, and staff is present, between 9:00a–3:00p. If you plan to bring food items by the church, we invite you to **PLEASE CALL AHEAD** to make sure the doors will be open. Thanks.



LEADERSHIP

I continue to give thanks for the faithful and thoughtful leadership of Peace Church, especially during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Their steady support and direction allows us to continue our ministries as effectively as possible. While we are not ready to meet and/or worship "in-person" yet, we are beginning the discussions as to what steps/procedures, etc. will need to be in place before we do open. We will also be seeking guidance from Government officials, Minnesota Conference Staff, and our Mayo Health Professionals before developing a reopening plan. We do not have any target date in place yet, but as soon as our plan is place we will communicate this information broadly. Thank you for your patience and understanding our focus on everyone's safety before we plan to reopen.

SEARCH TEAM

With direction from the Church Council we continue to move forward with the search process for our new Associate Pastor. We have reviewed profiles (comprehensive resumes), and performed preliminary interviews. We will be doing follow-up interviews with a couple of candidates, and proceed from there. We want to be clear that our primary emphasis is to seek a candidate who has the gifts to enhance and further develop our children, teen, and young adult ministry. We are also adamant that we will not settle or compromise simply to have a person in place... I know the right person will be called to Peace Church!

FINANCES

I want to once again give great THANKS to all of you who continue to support the ministries of Peace Church. Through your financial gifts, we are able to sustain and maintain our staff and facilities! Several folks have asked about the best way to give gifts to Peace Church. You are encouraged to coordinate a direct payment from your bank, or you can send a check directly to the church. I feel so blessed by the way you to provide for Peace Church – THANK YOU!

STIMULUS CHECKS

Several members have also blessed us with proceeds from their Government Stimulus Checks. Some have contributed the entire amount... others a portion of their check. These special additional gifts will be directed to the Emergency Fund so we can provide for those who are struggling in our community.

Thank you again for all of your support.

Peace and Love,



Pastor Paul



May Birthdays!

We celebrate with those in our church family who have birthdays in May.

- 01 James Crawley, John Kuth, Keeley Laughlin
- 02 Samuel Giere
- 04 Abby Alcock, Ruth Lyngholm
- 05 Jeff Teskey, Kristofer Truax
- 06 Amy Allen, James Fritsche
- 09 Ed Leof, Emily Raehsler
- 10 Eleanor Jacobs
- 11 Susan Crawley, Susan Dahle, Audrey Johnson
Austin Markee, Rob Stevens
- 12 Linda Bradley
- 14 Cecilia Kesselring
- 15 Samantha Sagdalen, Jeff Zerby
- 16 Keira Basballe, Ben Sadler, Leslie Sunnock
- 17 Diane Rueb, Timothy Rueb
- 18 Jayden Hawkins, Alex Lipford, Louis Vangalis
- 20 Hazel Horan
- 21 Shirley Fritz, Kelley Hollister
- 22 Jonathan Trachsel
- 23 Ila Teskey, Ryan Truax
- 25 Joanne Amundson, Emily Christie, Megan Paul
- 27 Rick Laughlin
- 28 Tamara Berven, Neal DeYoung
- 29 Charles Barrows, Donell Beaulieu, Anne Fritsche,
Aida Thompson
- 31 Keondre Bryant, Tina Zerby