



Peace Presbyterian Church - Elkhorn, Nebraska

April 2020



From the Pastor's Pen

Dear friends, sheltering in place,

We are certainly living through a challenging and changing time as God's beloved, aren't we? We have been rethinking how to be the Peace Church at worship and in service and fellowship. We have to practice being and doing these acts of discipleship in new ways in this time of social distancing.

Our Deacons and Elders and other church members are taking extra time to connect with the congregation. We want you to know you are not alone. We are still Peace Church. The building does not define us. The people - YOU - are the church! Think of this time as God's people being "deployed" into the world to do what you have been prepared to do as a disciple for a time such as this.

Help others to be more deeply connected to Christ through you. Reach out and share his love by staying connected to people. Call, email, or write to each other, to me, to your family, to your neighbors, whether you know them or not. Send an encouraging note or card. CONNECTION equals CARE. CARE equals LOVE. Love equals CHRIST. We are the church through our relationships with each other.

It doesn't look like we will be together for worship and fellowship during Holy Week, Easter Sunday and maybe for a few weeks beyond. We will keep communicating with you about those dates and changes as we follow the guidelines of our state and local authorities to help keep one another safe.

We have started using the online resources we have to stay connected and to celebrate worship. The Leadership Teams at Peace connects through weekly Zoom meetings (an online video and phone connection). I have Zoom meetings everyday with the committees and groups I am part of around the country. I use it for training I am taking. It is a great social connection resource.

Right now, our Sunday worship is pre-recorded and posted to our YouTube channel. We have a link to it on our Facebook page and Website. We also send out the link on Flocknote. This week we will do Facebook Live Prayer Services on Tuesday and Thursday and a live Wednesday Evening Vespers and Community Chat via Zoom. You can even join the Zoom service by phone if you don't use a computer.

We will also have a Maundy Thursday Prayer in the Parking Lot Communion Service. Everyone will stay in their cars and bring their own bread and juice with them. I will lead the service both on Facebook Live and with a speaker in the parking lot. Who would imagine this? Not me even a week ago.

For Palm Sunday, I am asking everyone to send me (peacepcpastor@gmail.com) a photo or video clip of you and your household "waving your palm" which could be a paper one you make or any branch, real or fake. I will then make a video using all these pictures and video clips and it will be our "Palm Sunday Processional" for our recorded Palm Sunday service.

This has been a steep learning curve for me and many of you. I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the new thing Christ is doing to reach people through this crisis. By having an online presence, we are opening up our church and life together to people everywhere! That is a challenging new reality and opportunity for us. Peace Church is stepping-up to it and stepping-out on this new path with Jesus.

(Continued on page 2)

(Pastor's Pen continued from page 1)

Whether you use this technology or not, know that we are still the church. You are still a vital part of this church even if you cannot use any of this technology to connect. Connect by prayer. Everyone needs to be praying for our church and one another. Praying is our access to the power and wisdom we need from God to be the Church in a time such as this. We are people of HOPE and we live with that resurrection hope as we look to the future. This crisis will come to an end - the virus will die. New life - life without COVID-19 - will come again and our daily life will change once more. Now, as in the past and into the future, Christ is with us. God prevails over all things. Love never ends. Alleluia. Amen!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Bonnie



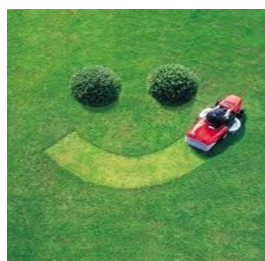
APRIL 9TH
@ 7:15PM

LIVE BROADCAST
PEACE CHURCH

A STAY IN YOUR CAR
COMMUNION SERVICE

*Maundy
Thursday*

*Prayer in the
Parking Lot*

Virtual Palm Sunday
Procession

The Building & Grounds Committee is seeking help for the spring and summer Mowing Crew.
If you would like to be added to the rotating schedule please contact Michael Young (michaelyoung@cox.net) or Bernie Baker (bjb050@cox.net) by April 1 to sign up.
We can promise you a great bunch of folks to work with and plenty of sunshine!

BEST WISHES ON YOUR SPECIAL APRIL DAY!

ANNIVERSARY: Apr 2 Jim & Nancy Patton; 6 David & Susan Bramow; 15 Julie Tartaglia & Brian Zuerlein
21 Brian & Mary Vance; 28 Dave & Karen Fulton

BIRTHDAY: Apr 3 Julie Targaglia; 4 Galan Abood, Deb O'Connell, Jim Osterchill; 5 Jim Dunavant;
7 Jane King; 11 Sara Wamsat; 14 John Dumke; 15 Lindsey Nodgaard; 17 Oliver Marshall;
24 Bailey Vance; 28 Linda Hurt, Richard Todd

FROM OUR CHURCH TREASURER

"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." - 2 Corinthians 8



Friends,

Even though we are not in worship together on Sunday mornings, our church needs you to still be faithful in your financial giving. Like you, the church must still pay reoccurring expenses like utilities, insurance, payroll, and taxes even though we are not meeting together. We are working to keep costs to a minimum.

We finished the first few months of the year ahead of budget, due primarily to several up-front annual contributions received and lower spending. In addition, we offset the per capita expense by another \$1,200 in March. Thank you!

The last part of March, going into April, will be our biggest challenge. With no in-person Sunday worship expected anytime soon, continued giving will be crucial to cover our monthly fixed expenses totaling \$20,000. The bill for the Fellowship Hall heating and cooling units (totaling \$20,500) will be due in April also, and although some restricted funds are available to help cover the cost, a portion may need to be funded from the current year's budget. The various ways to give are outlined below:

1. You can mail your check to the church. The mail is still being picked up and processed daily.
2. You can give on-line. We set-up an online giving option last fall through the Presbyterian Foundation. You can go to our secure web page and find the link to give online right on the front page. Just a couple of clicks and your offering is on its way to Peace. All these offerings are recorded and will be on your giving statement from Peace Church. The church pays a 2% fee for these online transactions. You might consider including that fee in your offering/gift.
3. You can have the church's bank make a monthly draft against your checking or savings account. We can mail a form to you to set up the process and you would then mail it back or scan the form and email it back directly to the treasurer at Peacetreasurer89@gmail.com

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or leave a message on the church number (the phone is being remotely answered during business hours) or contact me at Peacetreasurer89@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of Peace Church.

Mary McArdle, Church Treasurer

Peace Mission Statement

We seek to deepen our commitment to God through Jesus Christ with meaningful worship experiences, education, mission, and to welcome all who want to know and learn about God and the Church.

Website: www.peacepresbyterian.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/peacepresbyterianeikhorn
Podcast: "A Soulful Word" @ <http://buzzsprout.com/253873>
FlockNote: To receive church text and email communications text: peacepc to 84576
Address: 333 S. 204th St., Elkhorn, NE. 68022
Phone: 402-289-1104





Fellowship Hall Heating and Cooling

As announced at the annual meeting, we knew we had to repair or replace one or two roof-top heating and cooling units over Fellowship Hall. We were fortunate that we had the funds available to replace both units. This project was completed a few weeks ago and we wanted to share some pictures with the congregation. Installation required an 80-ton crane to lift the units to the roof (and remove the old ones). The cost of replacing these two units was over \$20,000. Thanks for your continued support.

Bernie Baker and Michael Young
Building & Grounds



The April Church Calendar and Volunteer Schedule will be sent out after a decision is made by the Session to reopen the church. Please pray for our Leaders and watch for updates. Contact Pastor Bonnie, an Elder, or the church office with questions.



The Work of God Goes On

God's work at Peace Church continues despite the coronavirus emergency. The leaders, members and staff of the church are busy carrying out daily tasks and special projects.

Pastor Bonnie and Jo Ryan are working from home. Pastor uses a variety of means to provide leadership, keep the church family connected, and meet their spiritual needs. Jo keeps the office running. While the church building is closed, our custodian Hernan Chacin is helping the Building and Grounds Committee complete outdoor tasks including spreading new mulch around the property. Maia McArdle volunteered her National Honor Society community service hours to help clean up the church grounds. JoAn Ferguson and Carol Huffman have sent ideas and suggestions to help the PW stay engaged and grow during this time. Many, many others are working and praying and moving our mission forward in various ways. We are grateful to God who unites this church family and to all who answer the call to keep God's work going. Thank you!

