



Peace Presbyterian Church - Elkhorn, Nebraska

January 2021



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." -Lamentations 3:22-23

2020-What a year! We had new challenges. We experienced uncertainty and change. We rose to each of these things and we are still here, together, planning and dreaming about our future as Peace Church and as Jesus' faithful disciples.

2021-We welcome you along with the new challenges, the uncertainty, the changes to come. We are readying ourselves to being together in worship and ministry. It will feel good to be back again. But we know things have changed, we have changed, the way of being the church has changed. It will be different and hard. Some it will be familiar and welcomed. It will take all of us acting with love and grace, to enter into the future for Peace.

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." -2 Corinthians 4:17-18

The whole of our life in Christ is about getting us ready for what is ahead. There are new opportunities and new beginnings if we turn our eyes to the Lord. Let's focus on the eternal-our true new destination. Let's focus on the love of God. Let's walk by faith. Let's share Christ's hope with others. Let's be the church this community and our family and friends need as we enter into a new year together.

I read this devotion today and it spoke to my heart. "Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever. Scripture is filled with prayers of men and women who reached out to God for a fresh start. Praying is the main source of connection to the one who created you and the one who wants you to experience blessings and promises in the future.

Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes."

It's been a long and eventful year that tested us and deepened us and expanded us in Christ's love and his way of living while we wait. Christ has prepared you and is now waiting for your "Yes" and your prayers and your fresh commitment to him and to the Church and to one another in this new year.

Welcome 2021! We are ready to see glimpses of the eternal in the now and the future we hope for and work toward. Thanks be to God we are together as Peace Church and as Jesus' disciples as we welcome this next new year in our lives! Amen.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Bonnie

"You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths drip with abundance." - Psalm 65:11



*On Sunday Mornings Zoom Worship
at
Peace Church!*

LIVE online via ZOOM and live-stream to FACEBOOK

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88353481181?pwd=NlphVVBUeU95aGlvbzcrZ2psdnNoQT09>

You may also join zoom on any phone to talk to everyone during fellowship and hear the service:

- For landlines dial: 1 (312) 626 6799
(long distance charges might apply)
- For cell phones dial: 1 (312) 626 6799

You will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID:
883 5348 1181 and the Passcode: 1104

If you have questions or need any help figuring out how to join us, call or text Rick King at (402) 669-3538 and he will walk you through the steps, and even arrange for you to practice at a time that is convenient for you. He will also be available to help you during the worship service.

Other Ways to Join Worship

For those not wanting or able to join us on Zoom you can *watch the live-stream service on our church Facebook page* (www.facebook.com/peacepresbyterianelkhorn) at 10:15am each Sunday.

You may also choose to *watch the recorded version of the zoom worship service on our YouTube page*. It will be posted later on Sunday.

REMINDER ON WORSHIP AND BUILDING USE AT PEACE

After much thoughtful discussion, the Session made the following decisions about the re-opening of the church and in-person worship.

1, The Re-Opening Committee will meet weekly (Tuesday) to determine whether to have in-house worship the following Sunday. A decision to cancel in-house services (and the use of the building to medium and large groups) will be largely based on the Douglas County "Severe Risk of Covid Spread" dial. A composite measure of severity in the Moderate or Low range (0-2.0) will mean the church can re-open. *A composite measure of severity in the High or Severe range (2.0-4.0) will indicate the building should be or remain closed.* This RISK DIAL for our county can be seen at: <https://www.douglascountyhealth.com/>

2. When we are able to hold in-house worship, we will do so in the sanctuary.

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Please contact any member of the Session or Reopening Task Team or call/email:

Pastor Bonnie: 870-415-2082, peacepcpastor@gmail.com

Scot Thompson: 402-618-1445, scot.thompson75@gmail.com

Church Office: 402-289-1104, peacepresby@msn.com



SESSION-APPROVED FUNDRAISER IS A SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who purchased Christmas trees and wreaths from Owen's Mowing last month. Your support of this local business also supported Peace Church as the church received reduced a price for snow removal in exchange for use of the north parking lot. Thanks for your support!

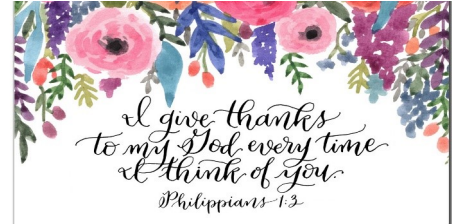


Thank you so very much for your Christmas Love Gift! Your generosity and thoughtfulness are a blessing! I am grateful to Our Lord for placing me at Peace and your allowing me to serve God along side you, Your support and encouragement mean more than you can know. Thank you!

Gratefully,
Jo Ryan

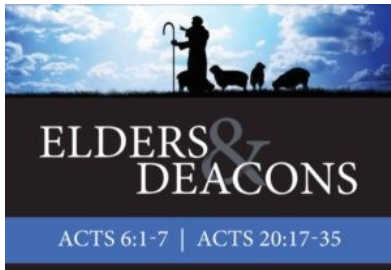


The Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone who helped to meet the needs of our community by donating winter clothing as well as personal care items this past couple of months. Your help was key In providing much needed items for our community. May God bless you all for your generosity!



Thank you, thank you for the love offering gift. I was so touched by your thoughtfulness. It means so much to me to have been here with you in a year that has been like no other in my ministry and my own personal life. Being part of the Peace Church family has enriched my walk with Jesus this year through the light and the dark times of this pandemic and our life together.

The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Bonnie



A very special thank you to our Deacons and Elders who are completing their terms including Elders Bernie Baker, Hal Huff, Jim Osterchill, and Michael Young, and Deacons Liz Baker, Penny Dumke and Sara Wamsat. Your service is appreciated. Your diligent work served God and Peace so very well. May God reward your efforts, time and dedication. Peace is better for your time in office.

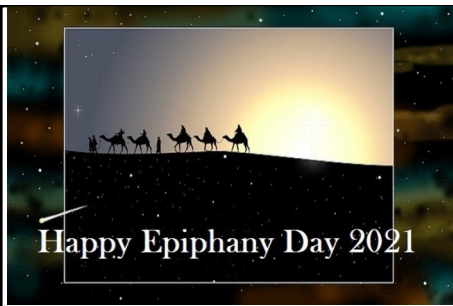


The Peace Church Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on January 31st. More information will follow in the weeks to come as to how this meeting will take place, given the restraints due to the pandemic.

BEST WISHES ON YOUR SPECIAL JANUARY DAY!

BIRTHDAYS: Jan 2 Tom Whisinand; 4 Kevin Wamsat, Thaddeus Wilkins; 8 Jim Koel; 12 Mary McArdle; 14 Elisa Bowcott; 21 June Karr, Addalee Wellendorf; 22 Allison Hall' 23 Donna Dermyer; 25 Barb Firzwater; 26 Scott Koel; 28 Ann Settles, Anthony Zaner; 29 Judy Miller

ANNIVERSARY Jan 15 Rich & Diana Novak



This is a copy of Pastor Bonnie's Epiphany flocknote, It was so moving for so many that in light of all that has happened this week, we thought it needed to be shared again. So we cleared this space of our planned article and are happy to share it here. Thanks Pastor Bonnie!

"Yesterday was Epiphany, the day we celebrate the Light God revealed to the world. And that light has never left us. Not even yesterday.

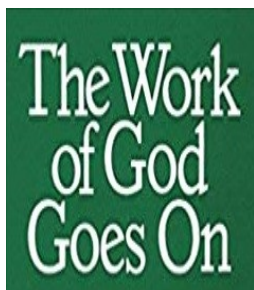
Evil has always desired to put God's Light out. And yesterday evil did rear its ugly head and cast a shadow. Lives were lost and our nation was injured. But the darkness will not overcome God's Light.

We have, by the will of God, the power to make a difference with our prayers and by putting our faith in action. Help Epiphany to shine today. Pray. Love. Seek the peace of Christ. Remember Christ is with with us always.

Peace,
Pastor Bonnie

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus, your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred and self-centeredness which infect too many hearts; break down the walls that separate and injure us; unite us in the bonds of Christ's love; help us to work through our struggles, sin and fear to help accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races, all tribes and peoples, may serve you in peace and harmony, with justice and Christ-like love towards one other. We humbly pray, eyes focused on your Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Happy Epiphany. May we all experience the many moments of enlightenment God has for us in the year ahead.



Ever wonder who is behind the many birthday cards that go out to the Peace Church Family each month? In a time when we are physically apart, Barb Fitzwater is doing her part to keep us connected by sending birthday cards from the church, something she has done for some time and that she continues to do in spite of the pandemic. Thank you, Barb for helping to keep us together! Your greetings bless us and make us smile!



Please reach out if you have needs or questions:

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Church Staff: 402-289-1104, peacepresby@msn.com

Mary McArdle, Treasurer: peacetreasurer89@gmail.com

Elder Jane King, Youth Leader: 402-699-0921, Janeking94@yahoo.com

Terrie Dunavant, Prayer Chain: 402-290-7070, nanna507@cox.net



MATTHEW 25

Website: www.peacepresbyterian.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/peacepresbyterianelkhorn

Podcast: "A Soulful Word" @ <http://buzzsprout.com/253873>

FlockNote: To receive church text and email communications text: peacepc to 84576

Physical Address: 333 S. 204th St., Elkhorn, NE.

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