



Peace Presbyterian Church - Elkhorn, Nebraska

March 2021



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all gathered together in one place." (Acts 2:1)

This is a hope and promise we have felt stretched in believing for our church as we are almost a year from the day when we had to stop in-person meetings and worship. We have said and prayed, "How long, Lord?" We are almost there. The Session has set Sunday, March 21st, as the date we will resume in-person worship.

Sunday worship will be a hybrid service as we will still be using Zoom to engage and to broadcast to those not worshipping in the sanctuary. The service will be different than we were used to when we worshiped in the sanctuary before the pandemic. We will not yet have singing, most music will be on zoom, all must wear masks, and the congregation will be seated by ushers to observe appropriate social distancing. There will be no visiting in the building, but will be encouraged to take place outside.

As our congregation begins to resume this new way to do in-person worship, please know that we will do so with a careful, planned-out process that came through many months of discussion and discernment by the Reopening Team, Session and the staff. We will move forward with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, with the consideration of all the best data and knowledge available to us in the moment, in the spirit of prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. We are still the church; still faithful.

There will be changes and pivots along the way as we make mistakes and learn new ways and best practices. There will be grief, and disappointment, and frustration. But there will also be blessings. We will get to see glimpses of the new thing God is doing, even now. We will have opportunities to savor the spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity, and faithfulness as we live faithfully into God's future for Peace Presbyterian Church.

Let us be faithful to God and to one another as we work through challenges in this time of opportunities and new starts in our life as a congregation. We have a long history as Christ's church to this community and God is not done with us yet. May we be guided always by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God, remembering that nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ, the one who lights the way and walks with us always.

Peace,

Pastor Bonnie





Join us for Sunday Mornings Zoom Worship at Peace Church!

LIVE online via **ZOOM** and live-stream to **FACEBOOK**
Tune in and share in this new worship experience.

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:

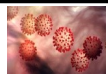
- For landlines dial: 1 (312) 626 6799
(long distance charges might apply)
- For cell phones dial: 1 (312) 626 6799

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.

Two Other Ways to Join Worship Every Sunday!

For those who do not want to or are not 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.



LOCAL COVID-19 INFORMATION – These websites are updated daily with important new items and issues and infection rates.

Douglas County Department of Public Health has information to share regarding the COVID-19

<https://www.douglascountyhealth.com/infectious-disease/diseases-and-conditions/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Sarpy County Department of Public Health has information to share regarding the COVID-19. Undated daily:

<https://www.sarpycasshealthdepartment.org/novel-coronavirus>

Questions, Comments, Suggestions on Covid Policy?

Contact members 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

Peace Staff continues to work from home. Reach out to them at any time:

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

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

Peace
Presbyterian Church



Website: www.peacepresbyterian.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/peacepresbyterianelkhorn

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

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 495. Elkhorn, NE 68022-0495





SUNDAY MARCH 21 — RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!
from Pastor Bonnie and the Re-Opening Team

The Session has approved to resume in-house Sunday worship beginning March 21, 2021. Worship will be at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. This will be a hybrid worship service. Worshipers and Pastor Bonnie in the sanctuary will be connected live with other worshipers and worship leaders and musicians online on Zoom. The in-house/zoom Sunday Worship Service will continue to be streamed to Facebook Live and a recording will be available on our church YouTube page. We are also looking at the possibility of live-streaming the worship service without the use of Zoom in the months to come

There are Session approved guidelines staff, volunteers, and worshipers in the sanctuary will to follow in order to maintain healthy interactions. These include requiring the wearing of masks, social distancing in the pews, as well as no congregational singing, no choir at this time, and no Fellowship or visiting in the building. These protocols are much like those we followed when we had worship in Fellowship Hall before the spike in the infection rate in our county. Rather than return to the Fellowship Hall, we feel the Sanctuary is now a manageable indoor space to resume in-house worship.

We will be sending out more information about in-house worship over the next few weeks, along with the guidelines. Please note that the building will only be open on a regular basis for Sunday morning worship. The office remains closed with staff working at home except for essential business. The use of the building by outside groups or for church meetings or gatherings is not yet approved. The Session will continue to monitor the health of the community and reopen the church for these kinds of gatherings when they determine it is safe and manageable to do so.

The Reopening Team and Session determined that several factors have combined that allow for the re-opening of the church for worship at this time. Specifically:

- Reduced severity* - Patients hospitalized with Covid-19 are less than half hospitalized last fall.
- Younger age of positive cases* - Less than 12% of all positive cases are for people over 65.
- Positivity Rate* - Positive tests have declined from a high of over 35% to less than 8%.
- Vaccinations - Vaccines have been distributed to health care workers and senior care facilities. Those over 65 are now getting vaccinated.

*-Source is the Douglas County COVID-19 Dashboard



We are anxious to get back to regular youth events and are hopeful as we begin vaccinations in the area. For now, please note the dates below. We continue to need plarn! Let Jane know if you have some ready to be picked up. We are in the process of identifying mission trip options. If you have an idea about where to go and how to serve, please let Jane King know,

Sunday 3/7 2:30pm - Zoom regarding Easter worship, details to follow

Sunday 4/18 2:30pm - Plarn event

Sunday 5/16 2:30pm - Tri-Faith tour & picnic treats

BEST WISHES ON YOUR SPECIAL MARCH DAY!

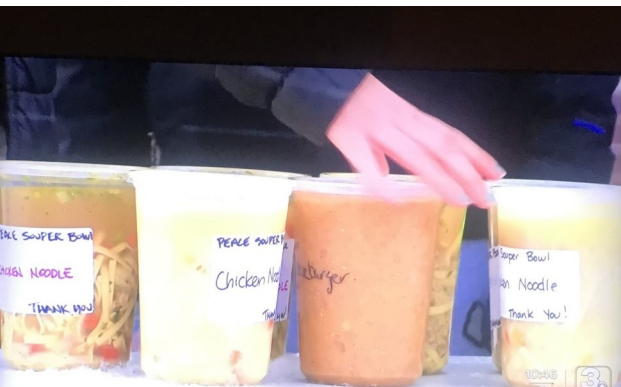
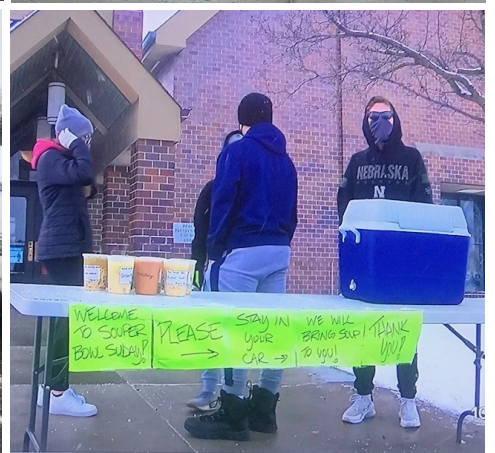
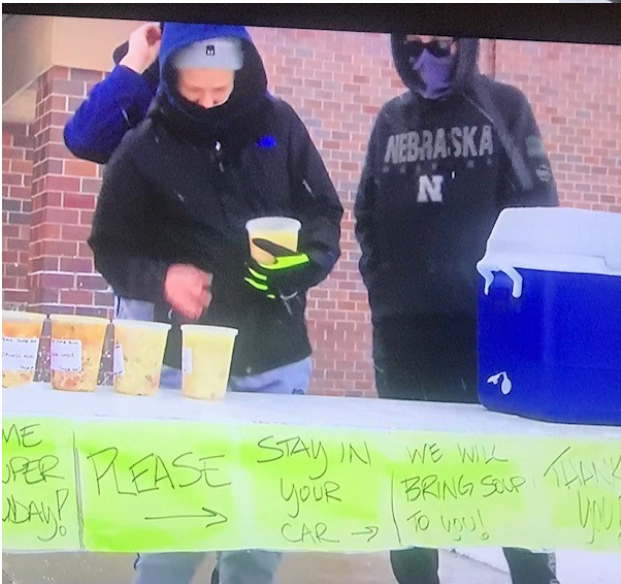
BIRTHDAYS: March 1: Steve Brosz, Julia King, Nate King; 8 Cale Bartunek; 12 Ruth Dunavant; 13 Jack Zaner; 14 Richard Johaneck; 15 Tenley Bohaboj, Mike Nelson; 16 Rick King, Scot Thompson; 17 Thomas Nelson; 1 JoAn Ferguson; 21 James Carter; 24 Elaine McIntosh; 25 Maddox Wentworth; 26 Cavin Thompson; 28 Caleb Dreibelbis; 31 Annie King, Dan O'Connell

ANNIVERSARY: March 2 Pete & Lu Hill; 19 George & Elaine McIntosh



**Peace Mission Committee and Youth Group
Continue the Souper Bowl of Caring Tradition**

**The Work
of God
Goes On**



Thank you Peace Church Family for supporting the 2021 Souper Bowl of Caring! The proceeds from the soup sale will go to help fund the next youth group mission trip. Thanks to our Youth and Leaders and members of the Peace Mission Committee who braved the cold to deliver soup.