



Peace Presbyterian Church - Elkhorn, Nebraska

May 2020



Pastor's Pen...Stop. Go. Yield. – What direction signal do we follow?

(Habakkuk 2:3 "For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.")

Dear friends,

I cannot tell you how much I miss being present with you on Sunday mornings, at meetings (Zoom video meetings and conference calls are just not the same) and any other gatherings we have as the body of Christ. I think that I took that reality and privilege for granted until this pandemic created a "Stop" to it for now. How about you?

I also think about how, for all these years, the church has prayed for and remembered and called upon all our shut-ins. Now here we are: ALL OF US shut-in and sheltering-in-place in order to protect each other from this virus and all its unknowns, at least we try, as best as we can.

But, didn't some people say "Go" this week? Yes. The Governors of Iowa and Nebraska have said it is okay for churches to meet again. They gave us a green light (or a cautionary one some would say) with some strict guidelines.

Our church, like most in Iowa and Nebraska are saying, "Not yet." Our presbytery and our denomination have shared that they too are asking us to take the "not yet" stance so that we can lead by example in helping to flatten the curve in transmission.

I was on a weekly Zoom call with 23 other Presbyterian pastors here in our Presbytery. Every one of them supported the "Not yet" approach. It sounds as if their Sessions, like ours, are being very thoughtful about when to reopen.

Our Session continues to stay in dialog about this timeline decision. We are reviewing and sharing all the information that's circulating about what to do now and in the future. We still believe it is too soon to gather. We love and care about you and your loved ones and will not do anything that could knowingly or otherwise endanger your health and well-being. We will keep listening and let you know when we make any decision about re-opening. Right now, we expect to keep the building closed through May. If it needs to be longer than that, we will do what we have to do.

We will discuss that date again at our regularly scheduled Session meeting on May 18th. One of the pastors at my meeting said, "A green light doesn't mean floor it." We will continue to proceed with caution and optimism.

I hope that you are worshiping with us online each week. Many hours by many people go into preparing this service. It has been challenging for me to get us to this new online presence as a church, and it's been quite a blessing too. There are many prayers and hearts that have aligned so we can worship our Lord "together" and continue to be Peace Church in this new way.

We are working to find other ways to build communion and community while we wait to be reunited. Please take advantage of the opportunities to virtually connect, to call and write to each other, not only for yourself, but even more for the other. We all need each other's "presence" and help as we wait and watch for that green light!

The peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Bonnie

PEACEFUL QUILTERS PROVIDE MASKS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Early in the quarantine, the Peaceful Quilters took on the task of sewing masks for some first responders serving in the Covid-19 battle. JoAn Ferguson learned of the need when she made contact with a friend of hers to check on her well being. Then JoAn reached out to the Quilters and the project took off.

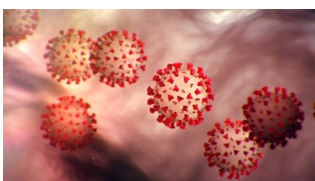
'I called a long-time friend in New Jersey to see how she was doing. She was confined to the house, of course, because of the Covid-19 virus and was very worried about her granddaughter who was working at a hospital in Princeton, New Jersey. The hospital had insufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the staff. I mentioned to my friend that perhaps the Quilters at church would sew a few masks for her granddaughter. So I asked Nancy Haack and Nancy put out the word. Sharon Bossman, Marilyn Schreiner, Susan Scholl, LaRue Marshall, Nancy Haack and Susan Domnanish not only sewed a "few" masks for me to send to New Jersey but 112 of them (in under a week!). Beautifully stitched. Artistically done. Sewn with love for people they didn't even know. My friend was thrilled beyond words. She said the first thing she did when she opened the box was to sit down and cry. She was born in Germany during WW II and remembers getting CARE packages from America after the war. She said she felt like a kid again opening that box of masks. Kudos to our wonderful Quilters. Truly God is at work in the world.'



Nancy Haack said in an update, "We have received two very nice thank you notes — one from JoAn's friend and one from her granddaughter. They said never expected so many or such pretty ones!"

In addition to those 112 masks sent to New Jersey, the Quilters gave masks to Pastor Bonnie and the Deacons to distribute to Peace family members who needed them.

Praise God who, even in this time of uncertainty, truly is at work in the world and in the hearts of people!



UPDATE of our COVID-19 Response at Peace

The Session decision regarding our response to Covid-19 **to keep the church building closed until the end of May still stands.**

We applied for and received a Payroll Protection Plan loan. This can be used to fund salaries, utilities, and mortgage interest for the next six or so weeks. The loan is expected to be forgiven under the government guidelines. This is a blessing to our church. This stimulus payment helps to provide the cash we need to first pay salaries and then other bills if any funds remain.

The church staff continues to work from home and outside the church walls while the building is closed. Many projects are being completed including property up-keep, building sanitation, church program planning and office maintenance. Mail is being processed daily and finances are managed by our treasurer and Finance Committee. Staff can be reached by email (peacepresby@msn.com) or phone (402-289-1104; phone calls are being answered remotely). Pastor Bonnie can be reached at any time at peacepastor@gmail.com or on her cell (870-415-2082).

Meetings, Session meetings, Committee meetings, Confirmation and Youth meetings are being held via Zoom or phone call. Please let the office know if you schedule a meeting so that the church calendar can be kept current.

Remember to pray for your church leaders, staff and church family. Pray for direction, wisdom, safety and health. If you have a need contact Pastor, an elder or deacon. To place a request on the prayer chain, contact Terrie Dunavant (nanna507@cox.net, 402-290-7070).

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



Good news for us all - the recently enacted stimulus bill (CARES Act) provides some additional tax relief for donors. If you use the standard deduction for 2020, you can claim a new "above the line" deduction up to \$300 for cash donations, that basically reduces your Adjusted Gross Income. If you itemize deductions, the previous 60% of your AGI limit for cash donations has been lifted, although the 100% of AGI limit on all charitable contributions remains. Please consult your tax adviser if you have questions.

Thank you again for your continued support of God's work at Peace. Keeping up with your pledges and giving generous gifts furthers our mission and blesses us all! Please feel free to contact me if you have questions at peacetreasurer89@gmail.com.

Mary McArdle, Church Treasurer

BEST WISHES ON YOUR SPECIAL MAY DAY!

BIRTHDAY 2 Chris Anderson, Daniel Bramow; 3 Liz Baker; 5 Megan King; 7 Tom Hopkins; 8 Nancy Haack; 10 Bill Dermeyer, Shirley Young; 12 Jodi Marshall; 14 Hunter Fritsch; 15 Briggs Badalucco; 17 Brynn Stelk; 22 Janet Petty; 25 Charles Bartunek; 26 Roberta Todd; 27 Ken Bunnell, Ellen Carter, Jerry Coleman; 30 Phillip Wellendorf; 31 Donna Osterchill

ANNIVERSARY 1 Gordon & Jan Fritsch; 3 Carl & Denise Zaner; 4 Richard & Mardell Johaneck; 17 Lyn & Sheryl Ramsey

IN THE PC(USA)

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the 224th General Assembly will be conducted online

Committee on the Office of the General Assembly votes for shortened assembly
Rick Jones | Office of the General Assembly
April 21, 2020

For the first time in the history of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the denomination's General Assembly will be held online only. The Committee



on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) voted unanimously to approve a plan for a reduced assembly gathering that will require everyone involved (all commissioners, advisory delegates, corresponding members and staff) to participate in a digital assembly. The final decision was expected to be voted and announced on Thursday; April 23, however, staff from the Office of the General Assembly received information Tuesday, April 21, that prompted a quick call with COGA.

"As we have discussed, we knew we would reach a point in time in our contract with the Baltimore Convention Center and hotels where they would not be able to meet the agreed upon services listed in our contracts and that day is today," said Julia Henderson, OGA's interim director of assembly operations. "This is a force majeure. We need to let them know we are canceling because they cannot meet their obligations."



Keep saving those treasures - the 2020 Garage Sale is still in the works! A new date will be announced as soon as the current situation settles down. Contact Steve Brosz with questions or suggestions at stevebrosz@gmail.com.

The Work of God Goes On

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

Pandemic Isolation Does Not Stop Worship at Peace Church

Our Maundy Thursday parking lot worship and communion service drew hearts together to remember Our Lord's suffering and sacrifice. Together while apart! Praise God for this blessing!



APRIL 9TH
@ 7:15PM
LIVE BROADCAST
PEACE CHURCH

A STAY IN YOUR CAR
COMMUNION SERVICE

*Maundy
Thursday*

*Prayer in the
Parking Lot*

We are the church TOGETHER!



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/peacepresbyterianelkhorn
- 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