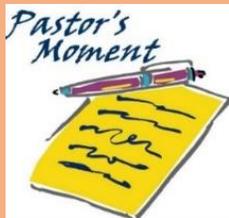


The Spire

October 2020



Dear Park Place Friends and Family,

By the time you read this Pastor's Moment, Park Place family members will once again have participated in a "Drive-by Parade" visiting some of our family whom we have not been able to see since this pandemic began and our Sunday services were postponed until it is safe to return. I must admit driving through a neighborhood in a parade of cars decorated with signs, with horns blowing, brings back memories. I feel like it's Thanksgiving Day all over again, and once again Somerset High's football team has trounced Case High's team – Blue and White Forever!! Isn't it funny how something like that can bring back a memory, and make it real all over again?

After Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, and the people taken into exile in a foreign land, there was obvious sadness. They longed to return to their homes, to worship in their Temple, which would first need to be rebuilt. Yet, in their loneliness, their memories of home filled them with hope, a hope that was sustained with their expectation that God would return them to their homeland, their Promised Land. In their despair, in this foreign land they found ways to remember, modifications to their manner of worship. No more formal gatherings in the Temple, but meetings in homes, which became small synagogues.

Although we have not been removed from our homes – we have not been taken into exile, our own land does seem foreign. The number of cases, goes down, then it jumps back up again. We're told to stay home, to maintain safe distances then we watch our state government return our children to the classroom, and we wonder where the logic is. We listen as two candidates, campaign for the office of President of the United States, as they ask for our votes in November. And all of this happens while more people die, more immigrants sit in cells at our borders and the beautiful northwest corner of our country is in flames. I believe what challenges us the most is the uncertainty, not knowing what the future is and when our familiar way of life will return. I'm sure it is the same challenge the exiled people of Israel felt in a Babylon so many years before. The good news is God was with them, never left them and was faithful to return them to their homeland, but to a city which needed to be rebuilt. We might say they came home and faced a new normal.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God is still in control, and I believe he will bring us home as he did the people of old, but it will be to a new and different normal, a new way of life, and a new way of worship. Please continue to pray together for God's protection, his guidance and his encouraging and sustaining power as we move through this pandemic.

In Christ's love and mine,
Pastor Bill



Worship Schedule

Join us as we continue to use Social Media to worship and praise God! We will offer daily messages & prayer, as well as Sunday Worship which can be viewed on either Facebook (Park Place Church) or on YouTube: search Park Place Congregational Church

October 4: *Holy Communion Worship Service – 10 a.m. Please join us for Communion worship by getting these things ready prior to your worship, you'll need bread (crackers are fine as well) and juice (a beverage) and partake when blessings and instructions to do so are given. /Services will be posted to Facebook and YouTube. Also, please look for Pastor Bill's Chats on Facebook on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays and Words and Music moments with Pastor Wayne on Tuesdays and Thursdays.*

October 11: *Worship Service- 10 a.m. Available on Facebook-ParkPlaceChurch or YouTube.*

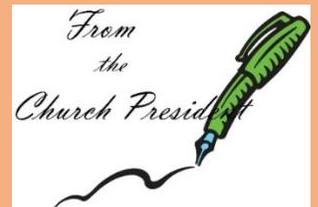
October 18: *Worship Service – 10 a.m.- Prayer Shawl Ministry 2-3:30 p.m. in Slater Park! Please use the Armistice Blvd. entrance and we'll be on the right in the first clearing! Please join us by bringing your lawn chair, mask, a drink and your knitting/crocheting. We will be social distancing!*

October 25: *Worship Service – 10 a.m./ Music & Praise - We will keep you posted as to when we can return to our regularly scheduled activities!*



Hello Everyone,

We seem to have one foot still in summer, but definitely the other in fall. I am not liking the cool weather during the day. It's great for sleeping, but I would like to keep wearing my sandals and short sleeve shirts a little longer. We are already looking at pumpkin everything – coffee, bread, decorations. If I look too far forward, I see cooler weather and Thanksgiving. The older I get the more I'd like to slow things down!



One thing I would love to hasten is in-person worship. If I could push this pandemic out of the picture I would. I am hoping we can make plans to slowly reopen, however, not at the risk of anyone's health and well-being. We all need to remain vigilant in hand washing, using sanitizer and wearing our masks. There is a lot of conflicting information out there, but I am certain those three steps will help protect us all. As you know, the Deacons and Council will meet in October to decide our immediate future. Regardless of when we go back, we must realize there will be a need to have a solid plan in place to open our beautiful Sanctuary. We will still have to delay so many of our usual activities, such as the Chop Stick Auction, Christmas on the Hill (No lunch?! No goodies?! No handmade items?!). When a decision is made to return to worship, the one activity which unfortunately we will not be able to resume is our coffee hour after worship. I truly miss our time gathering together after services just to visit with each other and catch up on everyone's activities during the week. I miss chatting with all of you. I miss your smiles, your laughs and words of encouragement. I miss hearing what is happening in everyone's life. I ask all of you to pray for the right decision, consistent with the guidelines, and in consideration of everyone's health and safety.

Bless you all,
Shirley



Park Place Congregational UCC Missions
Please remember All are welcome to join any activity or just drop in to see what is going on!

We plan to continue our nursing home ministry when it is safe to do so and all restrictions are lifted.



Stop by the Thrift Shop! Due to the pandemic, we had to close the Thrift Shop in March. However, at the suggestion of Pastor Wayne, and the help of my wonderful Daughter-in-law, Veronica Brouwer, we have been able to put some of our items on Facebook Marketplace. We take pictures of specific items and put them on the Internet with the suggested prices. Veronica then schedules appointments with the people who express an interest in an item to meet me at the church. We have had some success, selling quite a few items. I also show them other items that are on sale. The customers have worn masks and have been social distancing. We have also had some of our Thrift Shop customers contact us and make appointments to come in. If any of our members would like to arrange an appointment to shop, please call the church and leave your phone number with Linda, and I will call you and arrange a convenient time to meet you. We have items coming from Pastor Wayne's estate sales so there's always something new. Also, we have limited our sale of clothing and it is now located in the Annex. Hope to see you soon. Cathy Shute



Prayer Shawl Ministry - Safe Distancing in the Park!!! If you'd like to join us on October 18 from 2-3:30 p.m. We're meeting at Slater Park, Armistice Blvd entrance at the first big area on the right of the entrance. We will be "Social Distancing!" Please, bring a chair, wear your mask, your knitting and a drink if you'd like! All Are Welcome!

If you cannot join us, please continue to knit and crochet at home. Shawls can be either knitted or crocheted and should measure 25-30 inches wide and 70 inches in length. Thank you

in advance for supporting our Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you are helping us, please let us know via phone or email: 401-726-2800 or office@ppucc.necoxmail.com

Happy Birthday!!

Wishing you all a Happy October Birthday

! Please consider sending a card, making a phone call or reaching out in some way to one of our happy people!



October:

3: Andrea Padula
17: Taylor Poland

4: Laurie Phillips Olson
21: Michael Padula

6: Sara Morrissette

Bible Quiz

In Jesus' parable about people who hear and live by God's words, on what did the wise man build his house? (Answer on last page)

- A. rock B. sand C. grassland D. soil that was free of rocks

Prayers & Concerns for Our Family

Please keep these people in your daily prayers: Prayers our Teachers and students who returned to school this month and as more classes return over the next few weeks; Shirley as she has cataracts & glaucoma surgery; Leslie who has had a cough; Valimont family - the father has recently been diagnosed with ALS; Jakob a young man - 18 - recently diagnosed with cancer; a young college student dealing with mental health issues; Braydon Mobley; Little Pepper -the hedgehog; Marc who continues to have difficulty with his vision; Raymond who is recovering from hand surgery; Jim Hersey who is recovering from surgery and will be needing another surgery soon; Linda's family; Tara who is going through health issues & her mother Paula who has heart problems; Gary Bowen who is in stage 4 bone cancer; Curtis P.; Dave Hartshorn; Michelle, Micah; Ken Depot; Beverly Fountaine; Janet Theberge; Shelagh Lees; Debbie Ziegenhagen; Jocelyn; Laurie; Eva; Lauryn Maples; Janet Estes; Steven; Elaine; Bob, Carol; John; Karen B; Richard Deblois, Judy O; Kathy Morrisette; Anna; Brenda; Linda C.; Stacia; Colin Walker; Charlie; Betsy; Paul; Jackie Gardikis; Josh Barber; Paul; Melanie; Gabriella; Karen; Beth Fournier; Kenny; John Peter; Michael; Virginia; Steve; Alice; Deb C; Emily; Debbie Coury; Ann-Marie; Terry; Irene Marteno- cancer; Phyllis; Joyce - (cancer); Lauren & Heather; Frank; Cory; Joanne; Katherine; Irene; Bev; Jim; Ethel; Grace; Tom; Gregg; Peter; Nancy; Eric Green; Cathleen; Claudia Berube; Trevor Bynoe; Dianne; Bob; Sherry; Terry; All people fighting cancer.



Please continue prayers for

... Those who are recovering from Corona-virus, those who are working in hospitals, First Responders and all who are working with the public.

...For our country as we navigate our world of change, understanding, forgiveness, friendship and love. All of those that are working together to bring awareness to the Black Lives Matter movement.

... the victims of the terrorist attacks across our great nation and across the world. May the Lord bring Peace to this world.

... all those impacted by all the natural disasters all around the world.

... for the victims and families of domestic abuse.

... our service men and women, and veterans both old and young who have served our country with honor and pride.

Continued prayers for our homebound family members and friends: Sylvia Kaufmann; Rita Clough; Claudia Dunn; friends at the Holiday Retirement Home and The Village at Waterman Lake.

October Memorial & Honorary Altar Flowers

Altar flowers will not be ordered until we are able to once again return to our beautiful church for worship. These are the people who had the flowers for the month of October last year:

October 4: Glory of God by Kathy & Sara Morrisette

October 11: Given to the Glory of God by Claudia Dunn

October 18: Given to the Glory of God by Wendy Brunnell

October 25: Given to the Glory of God by Megan, Peter, Petra & Roman Palumbo

SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.

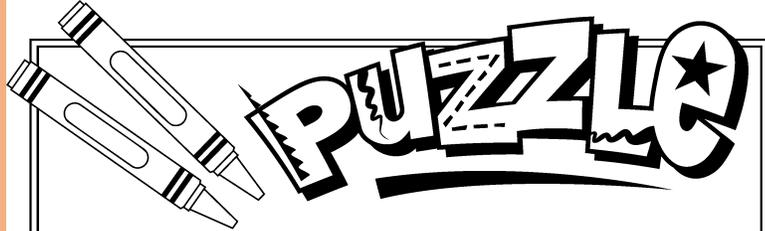


What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.



A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
3. To plant _____
4. Sharp part of a plant _____
5. What is harvested. _____
6. To dry up and shrivel _____
7. Person who plants _____
8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

“But the _____₂ falling on good _____₈ refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____₅, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____₃ n.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, crop, sow

Bible Quiz Answer: A (See Matthew 7:24-27.)



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JUST BE — AND BE STILL

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just be sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not doing enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. “In quietness and trust is your strength” (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann