



The Spire

January 2021

Dear Park Place Family,

Happy New Year!! I doubt many of us, if any, sadly and reluctantly said good-bye to 2020. Last year was definitely a year to challenge our patience and our faith. It was a year that required more time in prayer and meditation, because it offered numerous opportunities to call on God, and lay our burdens at his feet. We were forced to be creative as we accomplished objectives, which we had easily handled in years past. The year 2020, required us to find different and innovative pathways to worship.



So here we are, 2021. We're still wearing masks and washing our hands so often our skin has become dry and chafed. We are still separated from our dearest friends by six feet, and our Sunday morning worship service is still viewed from the comfort of our homes. However, many people have already been vaccinated against the virus, and we are turning the bend and hopefully, soon putting Covid-19 behind us. We look forward to new leadership in Washington, a President with a caring heart who wants to reunite our divided nation, and our first ever Black female Vice-President.

As we move forward, I believe we can find encouragement, strength and direction in God's words to Joshua. In the first chapter of the book of Joshua in the Old Testament, we read, "After the death of Moses, the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua, son of Nun, Moses assistant." God told Joshua that it was time for Joshua to lead the people across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Although there would be battles, God assured Joshua of victory with these words, "No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you."

As we move forward into the uncharted weeks and months of 2021, let us remember that God has never abandoned us. He was with us and sustained us during the challenges and heartaches of 2020, and he promises to be with us in 2021. He will be the light of our life which shows the way; he promises to be the spring of life-giving water bubbling up inside each of us; and he is the bread from heaven to fill us when we hunger.

As we move forward into the unknown of a new year, let us stay focused on our Lord, who continues to guide us and strengthen us to fulfill the call he has for us to minister to each other and to those in need.

May the Lord richly bless you and your families in this New Year.

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

January 3: *Worship Service 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 (or beverage). The rite of Communion will be led by Pastors Bill and Wayne, please follow along as instructed. 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. We are now offering/posting a Children's Faith time, titled, "Love Stories of Our Faith" each Saturday. We hope you will share them with your children, grandchildren and special little ones!*

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

January 17: *Worship Service – 10 a.m.*

January 24: *Worship Service - 10 a.m.*

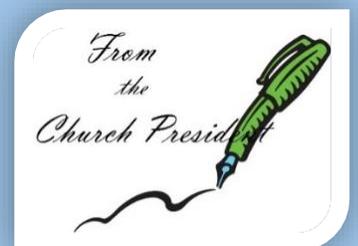
January 31: *Worship Service - 10 a.m.*

Note: Church Council & Board of Deacons met and we diligently watching the science with Covid-19 numbers and agreed to NOT hold in-person worship until further notice. Please continue to worship with us virtually!

Happy New Year!

I think we are all happy to welcome in a new year. Now that 2020 is in the books, we can look back and just shake our heads. We have hope 2021 will be much better as vaccines against Covid-19 are becoming available. I appreciate all the efforts of those who have plugged along with compassion and prayers for others. I look back at the virtual chats, music and sermons of this past year and am in awe of the creativity and dedication to our beautiful Park Place Church family and friends. I am proud that we can continue to minister to those in need and what can be accomplished through faith. I have been blessed with your friendship, concern and love during the last year and look forward to another year.

May God Bless each and everyone,
Shirley



College Bound....



Congratulation to Hailie Padula! Hailie was just accepted to Worcester Polytech in September; her major will be Architectural Design and Sustainable Energy. She also received the Presidents Merit Scholarship for academics! We are so proud of her! May the Lord watch over her as she continues into this new exciting phase in her life.

Welcome to the New Babies!

Jocelyn Neves and Jake Ledlow are the proud parents of baby Amiyah Madison Ledlow born on December 19, 2020. Both mom and baby are doing well! Maternal grandparents, Paul & Terry Neves are elated and so is her auntie Carlene. Paternal grandparents are Dave & Amy Lague and great-grandparents are Larry & Ruth Lague. May the Lord bless this new addition to the family! Congratulations on your new little one!



Laurie (Lolo) & Joe Olson welcomed their new baby, Norah Joy Olson on December 21st, 2020. She was born at 34 weeks, weight 3lbs 14 oz. 16.9 inches. Lolo is doing well and their 'little bean' is tiny but also doing well. Norah will be in the hospital until her weight is at least 4 lbs. May the Lord watch over Norah and her parents as they tend to her while she's in the hospital.



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, the Thrift Shop has remained closed to the general public since March. We are selling items on Facebook Marketplace and scheduling appointments with those who have expressed an interest through Marketplace and those who have called the church for an appointment. All customers are required to wear a mask and to social distance while shopping. Please leave a message at the church with your name and phone number and I will return your call and arrange a convenient time for your visit. At this time, we are not accepting items of clothing.





Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is ongoing, 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

“Comfort Wishlist”

What an outpouring of generosity and love that was shown from our Park Place Church family over the past two months! We had so much donated to fill the needs of so many this season! With love and gratitude to all. Please stay safe. God bless!

The Board of Deacons and Church Council



Prayers & Concerns for Our Family



Please keep these people in your daily prayers: Michael P. is in the hospital under observation; Eileen – stage 4 cancer; Steve Fields-Covid-19 & pneumonia; Maria Tavarozzi; Seth, is slowly recovering from his surgery; Denise Ouellette & Sharon Parker, fighting cancer; Alan; Lisa; Greg; Baby Penny; Valimont family – the father has been diagnosed with ALS; George Weavill; a young man named Lucas; a young college student dealing with mental health issues; Jakob a teen with cancer; Steve; Marc problems with his sight; Linda’s family; Curtis; Denise Gehrke & her daughter; Dave Hartshorn; 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 Morrissette; Anna; Brenda; Linda C.; Stacia; Charlie; Betsy; Paul; Jackie Gardikis; Josh Barber; Paul; Melanie; Gabriella; Karen; Beth Fournier; Kenny; 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; Dianne; Bob; Sherry; Terry; All people fighting cancer.

Please continue prayers for

...People who lost their jobs during this pandemic.

... Those who are recovering from Covid-19 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.

Happy Birthday!!

Wishing you all a Happy January Birthday! Please consider sending a card, making a phone call or reaching out in some way to one of our birthday people!

1st: Rodger Lawton
11th: Ginny Platt
12th: Susan Mobley
23rd: Normand Martel
29th: Pastor Bill

3rd: Donald Langford
11th: Michael Ruo
12th: Erika (Mobley) Mederios
27th: Carlene Neves

6th: John Brouwer
12th: Amanda Ruh
21st: *Sophia Padula*
27th: Jane Bedia



January 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 gave the flowers during January 2020:

December 6: Candy Stewart

December 13: Pastor Bill & Darlene McMillan

December 20: Ginny Platt

December 24: the Larson Family

December 27: Anonymous

Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

1. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
2. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
3. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
4. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.





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EPIPHANY EPIPHANIES

Sometimes brief words of ancient wisdom can spark an “aha!” moment — a revelation of new insight about God or faith. Here are some epiphanies for the season of Epiphany.

“If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit.”

—St. John Chrysostom (347-407)

“So that we might also have the means to go, the one we were longing to go to came here from there. And what did he make? A wooden raft for us to cross the sea on. For no one can cross the sea of this world unless carried over it on the cross of Christ.”

—St. Augustine (354-430)

“You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision.”

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)