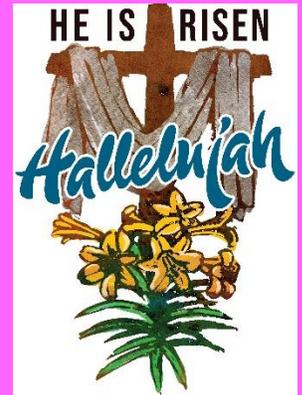




The Spire

April 2021



Well, Hello Everyone!!

I hope this finds you all well. Here we are and we are still celebrating with one another virtually. I can't believe that Easter is closing in upon us and that we will once again be celebrating the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. The Resurrection always seems to happen just as the earth is beginning its rebirth. The trees begin to bud, the crocus' and daffodils begin peeking up from the earth, the grass begins to turn green and the resurrection of Spring brings signs of joy and songs of praise for another new day. As we begin cleaning out

our gardens, turning the soil, planting new flowers and shrubbery, sense the wonder of the beauty of new life happening all around us.

The joy that we feel on Easter morning is such an incredible feeling and I look forward to it every year. The season of Lent has been a journey of meditation, sadness, confusion, learning, prayer and the witnessing of Jesus' ministries through the teachings of scripture. We celebrate the overwhelming excitement on Easter morning when the tomb was found to be empty. All that Jesus had promised had come true. The joy that flows through the Resurrection is a constant reminder that Jesus is alive and with us now and always. May we all celebrate with songs of praise and thanksgiving and may your Easter season be filled with Resurrection joy as we move forward to bring God's love into the world. God Bless you all!!

In Christ's Love and Mine,
Pastor Wayne



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

Holy Week Schedule

March 28: Palm Sunday - Worship Service - 10 a.m. Please drive up to the front of the church at 1 p.m. and receive your palms from Pastor Wayne or one of our Deacons! Face masks should be worn.

April 1: Maundy Thursday Worship: will be virtual at 7 p.m. with offerings for our Traditional "Shadow of the Cross."



April 2: Good Friday Worship: Please join us for our virtual service at 7 p.m.

April 4: Easter Sunday Worship - Holy Communion Service: Rejoice! Sing Praises with us on Facebook or YouTube! *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 Pastor Wayne, please follow along as instructed. Services will be posted to Facebook and YouTube. Please join us for our virtual worship service at 10 a.m. Then we will be offering Palms to anyone who would like to "Drive By" the church at (a time to be determined) by Pastor Wayne and a few of our Deacons.*

April 11: Worship Service: join us virtually for prayer, song and singing praises to our Lord after 10 a.m. on Facebook or YouTube.

April 18: Worship Service: join us virtually for prayer, song and singing praises to our Lord, after 10 a.m. on Facebook or YouTube.

April 25: Worship Service: join us for a time of worship, prayer and song of praise after 10 a.m. on Facebook or YouTube.



Sympathy to Our Friend...

Sympathy to family and friends of Claudia Dunn. Claudia was an active member of Park Place for many years. She loved helping wherever she was needed. She helped with our Soup Kitchen, May Breakfasts, Thrift Shop, Our Nursing Home visitations, Christmas on the Hill and many of our Cabarets! She also attended many of our group "family" functions too, going to the PawSox games, P-Bruins, and going to Pastor Wayne's singing gigs. She will be missed! May the Lord welcome Claudia with loving, open arms and prayers of comfort to family & friends during this most difficult time.



To all who have helped with our ministries the last 12 or so months, during these challenging times, I wish to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Pastor Bill's inspirational chats, devotions and bible studies; D and Andy's "Love Stories of Our Faith." Andrea, Hailie and Sophia add their spin for "Love Stories of Our Faith" every other week. Jane, our accompanist for continuing to bless us with so many hours of beautiful worship music for all of our additional services. Also, Kristine, Carlene, Bobby, Pastor Bill and Michael for joining me in leading worship; Seth, Sara, Darlene and Carlene for recording all of our offerings 7 days a week and our amazing Administrative Assistant Linda who has also put in sooo many hours of her time way above and beyond her "scheduled hours." I would also like to add special thanks to Cathy Shute and all of those who have been helping her with the sales at the thrift shop. They are dedicated to that special ministry which also helps so many in our community but also with our budget its another beautiful way of giving back to God. And, last, but certainly not least, I wish to thank all of you who continue to support our service to God through your gifts and participation by watching and helping in any way you can. All of these peoples' tireless and dedicated service to our savior Jesus Christ's ministries have been how all of this has been made possible. I have been moved to tears of joy and thanksgiving so many times and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. May the word and voices and hands of worship continue to inspire!!! With Love in Christ's service, *Pastor Wayne*





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. **We are in need of puzzles!** There is a big need for them at this time. Everyone is Puzzling! So, if you have any puzzles you are not using any more, please bring them down to Cathy.



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

Special Note: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is planning on holding a gathering at Slater Park for this month's meeting in April 18 from 2-3:30 p.m. **Weather permitting**, social distancing and MASKS ARE REQUIRED covering your mouth and nose! Social Distancing is also to be observed.

Prayers & Concerns for Our Family

Please keep these people in your daily prayers:



Ginny; Louisa; Sister Mary Pendergast of Sisters of Mercy, who was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, may she live a happy and fulfilling rest of her days. Jim going through chemo for stomach cancer; Denise Gehrke; Jakob going through chemo, prayers for his family as well; Tom W.; Eileen - stage 4 cancer; Denise Ouellette, battling stage four ovarian cancer; Sharon Parker, fighting cancer; Maria Tavarozzi, Alan; Lisa; Greg; Baby Penny; Valimont family - the father has ALS; George Weavill; a young college student dealing with mental health issues; Steve; Marc problems with his sight; Curtis; Micah; Ken Depot; Beverly Fountaine; Janet Theberge; Shelagh Lees; Debbie Ziegenhagen; Jocelyn; Laurie; Eva; Janet Estes; Steven; Elaine; Bob, Carol; John; Karen B; Richard Deblois, Kathy Morrissette; Anna; Brenda; Linda C.; Stacia; Colin Walker; Charlie; Betsy; Paul; 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; Trevor Bynoe; Dianne; Bob; Sherry; Terry; All people fighting cancer.

Please continue prayers for
 ... People who lost their jobs during this pandemic.
 ... Teachers and students as they return to in-person learning
 ... 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; friends at the Holiday Retirement Home and The Village at Waterman Lake.



Dear Family and Friends of Park Place,

We've set the clocks ahead (although it took a few days to adjust to the new time). We kick off April with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. I definitely see other signs of spring...crocus, daffodils, even though winter still seems to be hanging on. If you are bored, get a few plastic Easter eggs, have everyone in your household (even if there are only two of you) write a special message to put in the egg and hide it for someone else to find. Write compliments, words of wisdom, words of encouragement, a silly poem or a prayer. Lighten your day! Who doesn't love an egg hunt? If I could leave an egg for each of you, the note would read, "have a Happy Easter. I ♥ you".
 Blessings, Shirley



Happy Birthday!!

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



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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 rd : Sue Lewis | 8 th : Peter Brouwer | 10 th : Karen McDonnell |
| 13 th : Ashley Ventura | 14 th : Jaye Brooks Jr. | 17 th : Brian Patenaude |
| 20 th : David Ouelette | 20 th : Holly Shaw | 25 th : Sylvia Kaufmann |
| 26 th : Gerrit Brouwer | 26 th : Linda Lagace | 26 th : Tyler Ventura |
| 28 th : Bob Nicholson | | |

To All Our Park Place Family and Friends,

We are planning a small but most necessary restoration project in our Sanctuary and are hoping that you all may prayerfully consider donating to this project. Our balcony within the Sanctuary needs to be repaired and repainted and the estimated cost will be \$3500-\$4000. The cost for labor is approximately \$2500 which will also include touching up and repairing several small areas in the Sanctuary proper that need some scraping and repainting as well. The materials, primer and paint will be approximately \$400-\$500 and then the cost for having staging erected. The Church Council and Deacons that were present at our last meeting authorized the project as it is a necessary repair. As a part of the project the flashing around the base of the steeple will be resealed and the roof checked for any possible leaks. We thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration in donating to this most important repair. Thank You.



Yours in Christ's Service, Your Board of Deacons & Church Council



April Memorial & Honorary Altar Flowers

Altar flowers will NOT be ordered until we are able to once again return to our beautiful church for worship.

If you have given Altar flowers in the past, we will be keeping your names and donation info and will contact you when we are back doing in-house worship service. We will keep you informed when that will be happening. Thank you.

Holy hilarity!

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. Who's there? Hatch. Hatch who? God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? Eggs-ercise!

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So that's why no one was in church today."



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BELIEVING IN

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe in his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief in the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."