

The Spire

June 2021

Dear Park Place Family,

As you already know, Darlene and I have returned from Florida. Although the return trip required more than the clicking of our ruby red slippers together, I do agree with Dorothy when she says, "There's no place like home." I want to begin by expressing my deep thanks to Pastor Wayne for shouldering the full responsibility of Sunday morning worship services in my absence, and a big thank you to Sara Morrissette who has now assumed responsibility for recording the services. Sara, you are doing an awesome job!!!



I know all of us are anxious to return to in-person worship, to see each other and speak with each other face-to-face. Responding to and living through this pandemic has become a long-term investment, but we will get through this with the help of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. I encourage each of us to continue to pray for one another, and to stay connected in any way which we can.

I am reminded of the little boy who didn't want to go to bed because he was scared of the dark and being alone in his room. Mom tucked him in, kissed him goodnight, turned off the light and left the room. It wasn't long before she heard her young son crying in his room. She went to her son, and cradling him in her arms asked what was wrong. He said he was scared. Mom explained that he wasn't alone – God was with him, watching over him and would keep him safe while he slept. The little boy agreed and laid his head back down on the pillow. Mom kissed him goodnight again and left the room. However, it wasn't long before she heard her young son crying again. She returned to his room and took him in her arms, holding him close until his tears slowed. Her young son apologized for being scared. He said he knew God was with him, in the room. He knew God never left him and was with him always. He knew God loved him and would never leave him. He said he knew and believed everything his mother had told him, but sometimes when he was scared, he just needed someone with skin on.

Brothers and sisters, in Christ, loving Park Place family, we know we're together. We know the Spirit is in us and strengthening us. We know we're not alone, but the pandemic season has been long, and right now we just need someone with skin on. I also long for the day when I can close a Spire Moment with our traditional ending; "See you in church."

Blessings to each of you.

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

June 6: Holy Communion Worship Service – Please join Pastors Bill & Wayne with Kristine Geroais, Carlene Neves & Jane Bedia on keyboard for worship! 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 & 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.

June 13: Sunday Worship: Please join Pastor Wayne & Pastor Bill for this virtual worship service for prayer, spiritual words and singing praises to our Lord after 10 a.m. on Facebook or YouTube.

June 20: Sunday Worship: *Happy Father's Day!* Please join Pastor Bill & Pastor Wayne for this virtual worship service of prayer, spiritual words and singing praises to our Lord after 10 a.m. on Facebook or YouTube.

June 27: Worship Service: Please join Pastor Wayne & Pastor Bill for this virtual worship service for prayer, spiritual words and singing praises to our Lord after 10 a.m. on Facebook or YouTube.

Baptisms

Blessings to our two new children welcomed into their faith journey. Cameron Valentino Richmond, son of Brianna Virginia Therriault & Ricardo Richmond. Adrian Fernando Morillon, son of Haleigh Gomes & Adrian Morillon. May the Lord bless these two families as they begin their journey of faith.





Dear Park Place Church Family and Friends,

Here we are on the brink of summer...spring having sprung with an abundance of color. I just love how yellow daffodils and the deep yellow forsythia give promise to more scents and colors. I have a small purple lilac in my back yard and a pink azalea in the front. I love driving around seeing the variety of tulips, dogwood, magnolias and regular trees getting new leaves.

My major announcement is that after two long years I finally have tenants in my birdhouse. A friend in Maine made me a special birdhouse by putting together two pieces of an old round wooden gutter. He made a special bottom and top for clean out. It has a small hole drilled on the front with a peg below it for birds to roost upon. It is a unique bird house and I have anxiously waited for it to become a home. Early one morning I was awakened with chirping and squawking. I lifted my head and could see a bird noisily chasing away other birds. She was also busy going in and out with twigs, leaves and even a piece of frayed ribbon. Yippee! She has been busy for a couple weeks now and I saw her with something in

her beak as she entered so I think she has been feeding her babies. I try not to scare her away. The tree is a red Japanese maple and I love to see the different kinds of birds and even a squirrel or two playing among the branches.

I will just finish with this thought. My parents are up in Heaven having a good laugh. My Dad is saying, "See, Lora, there she is...just like us...reveling in spring blooms and finally watching the birds!"

Blessings 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! The Thrift Shop has reopened with hours Wednesday, Friday & Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please remember to wear your masks and keep social distance while you are shopping. We are also still selling items on Facebook Marketplace. If you would like to purchase an item, please call the church and we'll set a time for you to pick up the item. 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

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

Prayers & Concerns for Our Family

Please keep these people in your daily prayers:

Stacia; Ginny recovering at home doing rehab and asking for continued prayers; Ethel; Brian & Father Malloy; Janice Jones who is rehab recovering. Prayers for Lillian as she struggles with health and personal issues, her daughter Alicia who was just diagnosed with cancer; Louisa; Sister Mary Pendergast of Sisters of Mercy; Jim going through chemo for stomach cancer; Denise Gehrke; Jakob going through chemo, prayers for his family as well; Eileen - stage 4 cancer; Denise Ouellette, battling stage four ovarian cancer; Sharon Parker, fighting cancer; 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.; 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; 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.

... May the Lord bring Peace to this world.

... 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.

Happy Birthday!!

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



5th: Lois Chrystie

18th: Hannah Shaw

25th: Hunter Gervais

9th: Amanda Brooks

20th: Henrietta Roles

29th: Leslie Brouwer

13th: Becky Specht

23rd: Shirley Harris

30th: Lynn Usher

June Memorial & Honorary Altar Flowers

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

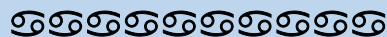
If you have given Altar flowers in the past, we will be keeping your names and donation info and will contact you when we are back doing in-house worship service. We will keep you informed when that will be happening. Thank you.

Bible Quiz

Complete this proverb: “Like snow in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.

- A. Springtime
- B. Summer
- C. Seedtime
- D. Autumn

Answer: B (See Proverbs 26:1, ESV.)



Hanging out with Dad

I’ve always been a “daddy’s girl.” Growing up, I usually spent Saturdays in the garage with my dad. We’d build something, fix a car part or get into some trouble together.

Though Joseph wasn’t Jesus’ biological father, he certainly served as a father figure for God’s Son. Jesus followed in Joseph’s footsteps as a carpenter, but we’re told little about his childhood. When Joseph advised Jesus to “measure twice and cut once,” did Jesus mention he’d get it right on the first measure? How many craftsman tips did Jesus learn from Joseph? And did Joseph learn a few from Jesus? Surely young Jesus looked up to Joseph. What did wonder look like in the eyes of the One who invented wonder?

How am I hanging out with God on a regular basis? Am I continuing to learn his “trade”? Do I intentionally mimic his words, his kindness, his ways of loving others well? Take a minute to ponder that. Imagine yourself out in the garage with God (or in the kitchen with God, or at the computer with God). What task do you imagine doing together? What does God say to you as you look into his eyes?

—Janna Firestone





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SEE LIGHT, BE LIGHT

In January 2021, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman presented her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the presidential inauguration. The final lines read: “For there is always light, / if only we’re brave enough to see it. / If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

How often we long for light! In recent years we’ve agonized amid pandemic, angry politics and new awareness of racism. Some have suffered deep sorrow. But Jesus says, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12) and invites us to turn to him. God is always bringing light into darkness, through helpers, healers, peacemakers, friends. Sometimes bravery is required to turn our focus from the negative to the positive — to see the light of God.

Jesus also says, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14, emphasis added) and calls us to brighten the gloom. That requires bravery, as Gorman notes, but as Christians we’re urged to look for light not just to make our own lives better but to shine into others’ lives too. The Holy Spirit gives us the needed courage — to both see and be light.