



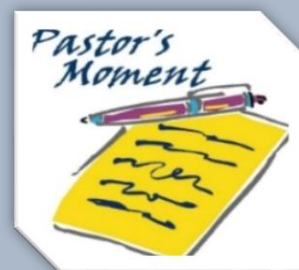
The Spire

September 2021

Welcome Home!
September 12, 2021
In-person Worship 10 a.m.

Greeting Park Place Family,

By the time you read this copy of the Spire, we probably will have returned to in-person worship in our Sanctuary. However, if the Spire reaches you before September 12, then I hope you plan to join us for our Homecoming at Park Place. Homecoming, in many ways reminds me of the first day of school. I remember every fall when I returned to school one of our first assignments was to write a story of "How I Spent My Summer Vacation." For me, it was patrolling the Shawomet Gardens in Somerset, where we lived. Riding around the project on my imaginary horse, with gun and holster at readiness if confronted by desperados. Sometimes it meant hiding in the bushes, lying in wait for that friendly teenager who delivered our newspaper every day. Then there was the nightly bike ride to Luke's to transport ice cream treats to my mom and her friends who sat on the back porch talking every evening.



Friends, our time apart over the last eighteen months really could not be called a vacation, but how did we spend that time? We probably kept our circle of friends small, similar to my summer months as a youngster, when I seldom saw anyone but my best friend, who also lived at Shawomet Gardens. Just as I protected myself by never leaving home without my guns, we protected ourselves by never leaving home without our masks. As for cleanliness, as a kid, I spent so much time playing in the woods, that Mom went over my body every night examining, me for any "critters" that may have taken up residence in my hair and on my body. How many of us during this pandemic have washed our hands so many times, our skin has dried out a bit. Plus, I wonder how many still sing "Happy Birthday" twice while they wash their hands. Come on, be honest. I could go on and on with the comparison, but I think you get the message. My memories of those early summers are for the most part happy memories. I didn't have to wear shoes, or dress pants and shirts, except on Sunday for church, and I had plenty of time with Mom and Dad. For the last eighteen months, I've worn casual clothes and sneakers almost every day. And even for church on Sunday morning, I could sit in my shorts, in my recliner, with a cup of coffee nearby.

But friends, it's time to go back to school, and just like when we were kids, as summer was coming to a close, we began to get itchy, anticipating our return to school. A new teacher, familiar faces who I had not seen throughout the summer, and also the anticipation of new friends; families that had moved into the neighborhood during the summer whom I had not yet met. We have all been anxious to return to in-person worship. We have missed spending time with each other, worshipping together, sharing the events of the week with each other, as we relax and chat downstairs after service. However, just like the new year in school would be different than the previous year, so will our Church Homecoming. Many things will be familiar, warm and welcoming, but we're different people than we were eighteen months ago. There will be new and exciting adventures, some new music, and sermons viewed in person instead of on the television, computer, iPad or cell phone.

The Holy Spirit has brought us through, and I pray the Spirit will continue to keep us healthy as we expand our boundaries, renew our friendships in person, and participate in worship together. I pray each of us returns not only expecting the familiar, but also seeking the new opportunities, welcoming the new faces, and listening closely to God's "still small voice" which guides our way. May the Lord richly bless each of us.

See you in church,

Pastor Bill

Worship Schedule

Please join us for our 1st "In-Person Worship Service on September 12, @ 10 a.m.!! All are welcome!

Please keep in mind we will be following CDC guidelines for mask wearing.



You'll also be able to continue to join us as we continue to use Social Media to worship and praise God! We will offer on Tuesdays Pastor Bill's Chat, Thursday's Words & Music with Pastor Wayne, Saturday's Love Stories of Our Faith as well as Sunday Worship which can be viewed on either Facebook (Park Place Church) or on YouTube: search Park Place Congregational Church

September 5: Holy Communion Worship Service – Please join Pastors Wayne & Bill with Kristine Gervais, Darlene McMillan, Carlene Neves, Bob Nicolson & 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.

September 12: Sunday Worship: WELCOME BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP! 10 a.m. Please join Pastor Bill & Pastor Wayne's worship service for prayer, spiritual words and singing praises to our Lord! Also look for us on-line for a "LIVE WORSHIP" today after 10 a.m. on Facebook. A recording of worship will be available on YouTube after 11 a.m.



September 19: Sunday In-person Worship 10 a.m.: Please join Pastor Wayne & Pastor Bill for worship service of prayer, spiritual words and singing praises to our Lord. Also look for us on-line for a "LIVE WORSHIP" today after 10 a.m. on Facebook. A recording of worship will be available on YouTube after 11 a.m.

September 26: Sunday In-person Worship Service 10 a.m.: Please join Pastor Bill & Pastor Wayne for prayer, spiritual words and singing praises to our Lord. Also look for us on-line for a "LIVE WORSHIP" today after 10 a.m. on Facebook. A recording of worship will be available on YouTube after 11 a.m.

Sympathy to Our Friend...

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Rita Clough who passed away on Saturday, August 7, 2021. Rita was a long - time member and friend of Park Place Church for many years.

A Celebration of Life will be held on August 16, 2021. Burial followed on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 11:00 am at the Hillside Cemetery in Castleton,



Vermont. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Park Place Congregational Church or The Rhode Island Shriners Charities Trust, who generously supported Rita's granddaughter for many years.

May the Lord welcome Rita into His Loving arms and comfort her family and friends during this most sorrowful time.



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. NOTE: THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO DONATE ITEMS TO OUR THRIFT SHOP. AT THIS TIME, I REQUEST THAT YOU DO NOT DONATE ANY CLOTHES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



THE REQUEST IS THAT AT THIS TIME WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS AND SPACE TO HANDLE THE CURRENT INFLUX. THERE IS A DROP BOX IN THE REAR OF THE CHURCH IN THE SENIOR CENTER PARKING LOT FOR BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS IF YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR SPRING CLEANING AND HAVE TO GET THOSE UNWANTED CLOTHES OUT RIGHT AWAY. THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE. CATHY SHUTE



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.

We have received some yarn from some generous people and are making it available to our group to make prayer shawls. If you'd like to look over the yarn for your next shawl, please call Ginny to arrange a time to come take a look.

Prayer Shawl meeting at Slater Park, Armistice Blvd., Pawtucket, RI 02861 from 2-3:30 p.m. on September 19. Please bring your shawls and a chair. We look forward to once again getting together.



What a Wonderful Outpouring for our “Bless Their Backpack Mission!”

A huge thank you for all the donations to our “Bless Their Backpack” drive for the Boys & Girl’s Club of Pawtucket. Wow ... together we can do so much! With prayers for a safe, productive and happy school year! God bless!



Our Ladies dropping off the donated backpacks and school supplies!

Darlene McMillan & Ginny Platt

Happy Birthday!!

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

4: Timothy Shaw
6: Dawn Shaw
14: Jocelyn Neves

20: Ron Barber
29: Hannah Gervais
29: Tina Chambeau



Dear Park Place Church Family and Friends,
As many of you know from a prior sermon with our artwork, my daughter passed away suddenly from an arrhythmia at the age of 29. Here is the final chapter:



As the 13th anniversary of Kim's passing approached I finally felt ready to release her ashes, which had been placed in a biodegradable "pillow" that was meant to be released in a body of water. It would float until thoroughly wet and dissolve. She has been carefully kept in a designer (of course) shopping bag in my bureau drawer.

I had postponed my initial post-COVID visit to my friends in Maine and realized I would now be there on August 4th, the anniversary. Kim loved the Maine coast and had been to Peaks Island with me. So I put her in the back seat for our last "road trip". I talked to her all the way through Boston, telling her about all the changes. When I got to Kath and Pete's they were happy to participate. We just had to find the right spot that was accessible because the coast is so rocky and had to get the right tide. Kim has been all along his area so it felt right.

Off we went early the next morning before people were out and about. I couldn't get close enough to get the pillow into the water, but Pete was able to and we watched the blue pillow heading out to sea. Now if you knew Kim, you knew she could do something the easy way or the hard way; she usually chose the hard way. Sure enough, a big wave came along pushing her back to shore. And Kim being obstinate, got caught up between a couple rocks! We sat for some time watching, looking out at the Atlantic. The pillow was getting fully soaked and seemed to be disintegrating. I was satisfied Kim was happily swimming in the ocean and we headed back to the cottage.

Later in the afternoon, Pete was headed to the dump. I went so we could swing by the rocks to check Kim's progress. Our other friend, Catherine Share, wanted to come with us. And, typical Kim, there she was in the same position. Catherine was agile enough to reach the pillow, empty most of the remaining ashes and bring the shredded pillow and a small portion of ashes back to me. We returned to the car and found a large salad container that was headed to recycling. It was big enough for me to bring home what remained of the pillow. As we were driving away, much to my amusement, Pete said, "We can say we knew Kim in her salad days". And Catherine said, "I did my Share" (remember her last name is Share). Kim would have had a good laugh (or groan)!

I am happy knowing Kim is swimming to her heart's content. My heart is full of love for Kim, the memories we made and all the wonder family and friends I am blessed with.

Shirley



Prayers & Concerns for Our Family

Please keep these people in your daily prayers:

Laurie Pasquel, she had a massive heart attack and now doctors are accessing the amount of damage to her body. Continued prayers as Jennifer recovers from hip surgery; Trevor Smith who is in the army and currently on standby to be deployed to



Afghanistan. Cathy from Florida, she has Covid and is in the hospital on a ventilator; Audrey, with a mild case of Covid; Joe, Kelly, Jesse all have mild cases of Covid; Rev. Lois Bryant Bryant from Smithfield Ave. church, as the doctors determine the best course of action. Vicki & Brian; Marilyn Tucker; Brian & Father Malloy; Janice Jones; 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; Ethel; 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.; 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

... All teachers and students returning to school this month.

... 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; friends at the Holiday Retirement Home and The Village at Waterman Lake.



Park Place Congregational United Church of Christ
71 Park Place
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Phone: 401-726-2800
Email: office@ppucc.necoxmail.com
Website: parkplaceucc.com

*And whatever
you do, whether in
word or deed, do it all
in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.*

COLOSSIANS 3:17, NIV

LABORING FOR THE LORD

For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.”

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs. “Whatever your task,” says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — “put yourselves into it as done for the Lord.” Verse 17 tells us to “do everything” in Jesus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, “Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.”