



Peace Dale

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Our Mission Statement:

"EMPOWERED BY GOD'S GRACE, WE WELCOME ALL, LOVE ALL,
AND SEEK JUSTICE FOR ALL. UNITED IN SPIRIT, THE JOURNEY MAKES US ONE."

261 COLUMBIA STREET, PEACE DALE, RI PHONE 401-789-7313 WEB PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG EMAIL OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG

E-Light Newsletter

June 4, 2020

“Please, I can’t breathe…” George Floyd’s words are on my mind as I write this weekly E-Light article. We just celebrated the breath of God on Pentecost, and here we are face to face with the reality that a significant portion of our population feels as though they can’t breathe when it comes to racial equity. It seems our nation is experiencing a new civil rights movement, or at least an awakening. God’s breath is being used in ways that are crying out for justice for the marginalized, and from the whirlwind we listen, for the voice of God.

We, as witnesses for Christ, and for Christ’s compassion when it comes to the disinherited, realize that it is incumbent upon us to stand in solidarity with those whose voices have not been heard. We are a denomination with a long history of fighting for social justice (following Jesus’ example). We find ourselves called to pick up that mantle in intentional ways. We will be discussing this at the next Executive Board meeting, but my friends, as dark as the times may seem, in the words of Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes, “we were made for these times.” As she writes, “we are definitely the leaders we’ve been waiting for.”

This Sunday, we will be reading a letter by Dr. Estes that expresses this sentiment. We will also celebrate God, and the gift of God’s Spirit through Music Sunday Part 2! So plan on watching and worshiping and thinking about ways we can all be part of the antidote to the poison that is racism.

We also have some new members to get to know! Last Sunday, in the midst of this pandemic, and everything else that is going on, we *extravagantly welcomed 8 new members* into our Body of Christ! So if you get a chance to come to our Zoom Fellowship Hour on Sunday, think about logging in at our *summer time of 10am* and say hi to the newest members of our faith family! You also might want to congratulate our choir and the other folks who all contributed to what promises to be a Music Sunday to remember!

And I want to take a moment and say a **huge thank you** to Kateri Wheeler-Clarke. She has done a fantastic job with youth group this past year and with helping to make Youth Connect the success that it is! She and the youth group are featured in an article on the conference website! I’m including the link below, but if you go to sneucc.org and scroll down on the home page, you’ll see pictures of her and the youth group engaged in an online scavenger hunt! Our Youth Group is lifted up as an example for the entire Southern New England Conference! Great work Kateri! She finished the year strong and is passing the baton on to whoever comes next (as was her plan from the beginning); we are so grateful for your work Kateri!! Well done!! She has graciously agreed to stay on the C.E. board and will continue to be a great asset to our church as we move forward with our Christian education programming.

<https://sneucc-email.brtaapp.com/!H8juPqtAdwDKgwexVH4a4FSWEX+6360oFyeiC-WfYGI>

See you on Music Sunday Part 2, and at the new 10 am Zoom Fellowship Hour! This is a time for awakening to systemic racism, transcending complacency and considering ways to actively work towards a more loving and inclusive society. May the *Spirit of the living God, fall afresh* on all of us!

Peace, Pastor Fred

GREEN TEAM SEEKS ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS

We are in the early stages of forming a Church Green Team. Our major goal is to advocate for improved conservation and environmental practices to better protect the Earth and Humankind. So far we have a nucleus of enthusiastic volunteers, but wish to enlarge our group in order to better address the diverse tasks and efforts to accomplish our goals. As a first effort, we are attempting to make an inventory of practices already in place (to see a preliminary inventory list, go to our website at <http://www.peacedalechurch.org/>) .The team then will identify several key areas that need priority attention and try to improve our efforts in those areas.

Please consider volunteering to serve on the Green Team to help us to help improve the environmental health of our church, our community, and our country.

Sincerely,

Don Hermes Dherme33@gmail.com

401-783-6314

JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our Mission of the Month for June is The Jonnycake Center of Peacedale. The Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale started 45 years ago to supply a need of food for those who didn't have it. Since then, it has grown from a food pantry into a medium size social service center that serves South Kingstown and Narragansett. The Jonnycake Center of Peacedale provides a range of services – from school vacation meals, toiletries, other health/financial wellness services and more! With the current crisis keeping kids at home, they've started the school vacation meals early; they've currently fed 150 kids a week since March. Now more than ever the Jonnycake Center and our local community needs us to step up as we are able. The Jonnycake Center is also asking that if you can, to please consider donating physical items as there is always a need. They can always use gluten free items, such as pasta and snacks, non nut butters for those with nut allergies, toiletries, and canned goods. They have a donation bin on the curb outside that's available during their operating hours which can be found on jonnycakecenter.org. Please think of the Jonnycake Center this month and always as you donate and give generously.

The practice of generosity-like our spiritual practices-deepens the sense of hope, purpose, and meaning in people. While we are battling against the Cov-19 pandemic and must observe social distancing, we feel the need to respond. Thank you to all who have faithfully continued to support our congregation through time talent and treasure.

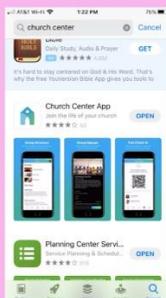
We know that for some the pandemic has made financial support difficult. If you are able please support the mission and ministries of Peace Dale Congregational Church through one of these options:

1. Send a check to the church: Peace Dale Congregational Church, 261 Columbia Street, Peace Dale, RI 02879.
2. Set up Auto-bill pay for your weekly or monthly offering through your bank
3. If you have not already done so, set up online giving through our secure Vanco system on our website. You can access that by clicking [here](#).
4. Use PayPal for a donation. Here's the link: [PayPal](#)
5. Download our new phone app: Church Center giving. Here are some instructions for acquiring that account:

Using the Church Phone App:

From the app store:

Choose Church Center, Peace Dale Congregational



Need help?

Contact the church office:
office@peacedalechurch.org

Once the app is installed on your phone choose “Give” at the bottom of the app to quickly make a donation to support our mission and ministries.

Thank you, thank you, thank you the continuing support of Peace Dale Congregational Church who is making a difference in many people’s lives. We hope it is making a difference in yours.

The Stewardship Board

As promised, this is the second reveal of the Weird Church book group's report. The goal of the group was to open our minds to different ways of thinking about church. This first section provides background to help us think about church differently. Next week we will start exploring different forms of church.

The folks who participated in this group are listed at the end. Feel free to contact any of them, if you would like to discuss the ideas presented over the next few weeks or if you would like to borrow a copy of the book!

Sylvia

BACKGROUND

The text first provides a background of the early church that had no building, was comprised of small groups of believers and was considered subversive. Not until Constantine was the church harnessed by government in order to promote good citizens. The authors also provide a schema called Spiral Dynamics which names and labels the development of how folks think. Using colors, Estock and Nixon explain these value systems. For example, **BLUE** enforces a code of conduct that produces stability, laws and discipline with a healthy dose of achievement and success. Tradition is the only way and tolerance and understanding are missing. Established order enables **ORANGE**'s shift to a focus of personal success and moves from the sacred to the secular with a belief in reason and science. **GREEN** questions the affluence and excesses of orange. Global warming, world peace, eliminating hunger and closing the gap between the haves and have-nots are important issues within this value system. **YELLOW** respects all perspective along the spiral and looks to chaos as a gift that helps to leverage the potential for healthy change. **TURQUOISE** moves beyond all the barriers of race, culture and nation toward a global tribalism. Ego is virtually non-existent. (pp xi-xiii)

The text delves into the decline of Christianity as we know it, and warns that it is being replaced by a "globalism that wants more than your pocketbook, it wants your soul." (p. 29) For Christianity to survive, the authors posit we must return to a subversiveness that persists in the belief that something better is possible in honoring the dignity of each human being. "The authors question how many are making a serious attempt of investing significant personal resources of time, money and energy in blessing their neighbors and toppling all that oppresses people" (p.33)

Any church without an endowment and a strong, seriously compelling reason for its ministry will dry up and blow away. (p.42)

After painting a realistic and bleak picture of Christianity's decline, the authors then direct the reader to examining the future of the church. What might it look like, this subversive church? Will it be multi-ethnic, multi-denominational, will it have a building, what will be the common thing that binds? How will we overcome the belief of 70% of Americans that religion causes more problems than it solves? (*Public Religion Research Institute*)

The authors warn readers not merely to manage the decline of their churches, but to re-imagine and to trust God's Spirit in creating anew.

They urge folks to leave the blue and orange institutional church and to “practice our faith in a different sort of way, to lead in a different sort of way, to organize community in a different sort of way.” (p. 72)

Imagine a church where there are multiple ways to belong and participate – no single paradigm of membership and certainly no expectation that a member do all of their serving and learning under this church’s umbrella. (p. 78)

Members of the Weird Church book group

Rev. Fred Evenson

Eve Keenan

Joanne Haynes

Jane Stabile

Linda Jeans

Ray Christian

Walter Young

Jim Badger

Sarah Algie

Val Lowell

Don Lowell

Sylvia Blanda

PDCC SCRIP Update

Just a reminder that the SCRIP program is continuing even during these trying times.

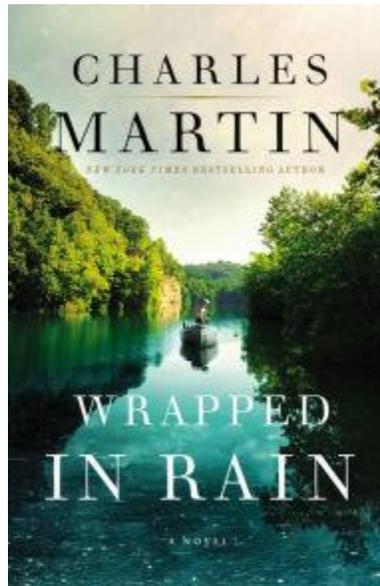
We have in-stock cards for all the grocery stores (Belmont, Dave's, Shaw's, and Stop&Shop) as well as CVS and Walgreens. We also have a limited quantity of Applebee's, Panera, and Matunuck Oyster Bar for take-out. If you are interested in purchasing any of these cards, please contact Cindy Dowgiallo (acl98@cox.net) or Deb Shaw (dkshaw5@cox.net) and we can arrange curbside pick-up or delivery. At this time, we will only be accepting checks payable to PDCC.

There is also an on-line component of SCRIP which allows for Reloads and Electronic Gift Cards. Shaw's Supermarket and CVS are available for re-load so keep your original SCRIP gift card. Grocery stores are not available as electronic gift cards, but you can still do your on-line shopping at Amazon, Walmart, and many other retailers. If you are interested in learning more about this option, please reach out to me and I can send you instructions and/or walk you through the process of setting up an account.

Thanks for your continued support of SCRIP and stay safe and healthy!

Deb Shaw (dkshaw5@cox.net or pdccscripcoord@gmail.com)

Virtual (Zoom) Book Club Get-Together – Friday, June 12th at 6:30 p.m.



On Friday, June 12th, at 6:30 p.m. CFL book club will hold a virtual get-together on the fictional book, “Wrapped in Rain” by Charles Martin. Although this book is a little sappy and far-fetched in its story-line, its timeline, and clichés at times, it touches on many of the complexities of humanity. There is a thread of Christianity as a foundation for life through the character of Miss Ella. If you want to participate, please let Darlene know at dhermes44@gmail.com and she will send you an invitation the week of the get-together. The Discussion at the get-together could possibly include such reflections as:

1. Where does one turn to gather strength when tough times come: family, church, friends, past experiences?
2. When you think of someone, who may have changed your life in some way, how much did you really know about that person (teacher, past acquaintance, neighbor)?
3. How much do you know about domestic violence in South County?
4. Have you had a coincidence that seemed unreal? (i.e. Running into an old friend when that relationship may have caused you to reflect on something needed at that time in your life.)



Peace Dale

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SENIOR MINISTER:

THE REV. A. FRED EVENSON
FRED.E@MAC.COM

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

NATHANIEL BAKER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:

CHERYL VON EHRENKROOK

TODDLER CARE PROVIDER:

LAUREL SMITH

SEXTON:

MARY DEPIETRO

DIRECTOR OF PDCC YOUTH GROUPS:

KATERI WHEELER

VOLUNTEER YOUTH CONNECT ADMINISTRATOR:

MEG KOLODZIEJ

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

ASHLEY DIGREGORIO
OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG

PASTOR EMERITUS:

DR. LAWRENCE A. WASHBURN

CH. M. EMERITA:

BETTY V. NICKERSON



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**Be sure to visit our website
for all sorts of information related to PDCC!
peacedalechurch.org**

PDCC welcomes your input.

*If you have anything you'd like included in the newsletter, please forward your request(s)
to the church office (before noon the day before the newsletter is published)*