



Peace Dale

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

E-Light Newsletter

July 22, 2020

Hello PDCC Family!

It is good to be back with you! Thank you to all who helped things carry on smoothly while I was away. Going through my emails, I couldn't help but notice something. In the past, I have spent some time with an inspirational (somewhat theologically conservative) group called Catalyst. I value the dialogue with these leaders of some "big box churches". They recently sent me an email including the following quote...

"We live in a world that is full of injustice, that is full of pain. In your own nation, I don't know that there's been a more pivotal time than where we are right now, and this is not the time for the church to fall back. This is not the time for the church to pull back.

This is the time for the church to arise, for the leaders in the house of God to understand the purposes of God, to understand the plans of God, to be full of the courage of God, and to say, 'We are well able to go and take the land. We are well able to lead our people in the midst of the darkness, in the midst of the despondency, in the midst of confusion.' It is the people of God that ought to be arising." - Christine Caine

This leader was actually speaking in 2016, but they sent it out now, as it seems more relevant than ever! Referencing Dt. 1:1,2, her point is that the journey of 40 yrs for the ancient Hebrews, should've taken only 11 days. God says, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain." It's time to go into the promised land!

My friends, I know we are beset by multiple crises, and I think fatigue is beginning to set in. But let's be inspired by what Martin Luther King Jr. called the "urgency of now!" After all, "It is the people of God that ought to be arising."

This is a time for us to be willing to step outside of our ideological/theological comfort zones and listen to other perspectives. It's a time to listen deeply to the voices around us. We may have wandered in the wilderness for quite some time, but God is calling us forward.

In fact, the leadership of our church has begun an important conversation as we consider updating our mission (vision) statements. We have entered a new time, how do we feel called to respond as a faith family? It's a good time for us to not only share our own perspective, but also carefully listen to those around us. Let's prayerfully work together as we further define who we are, and who we are called to become, in this place in this time. We invite you to start thinking about these important questions now, as we formulate a process to facilitate the dialogue.

All this is to say that there is hope! There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and within each of us! Let's continue to find ways to let our light shine, as God calls us into the promised land.

Peace and Joy my friends! - Pastor Fred

President's Note

Over the past few months, we have had to make some very difficult decisions. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we had to suspend in person worship and close our church building. This was not easy, and I know we miss seeing one another and worshipping together. Fortunately, we were able to quickly put together an online worship service. I am amazed at how fast this was accomplished. It is through the hard work of Pastor Fred, our Music Director Nathaniel and the very talented production team of Jet Vertz, Greg Blasdell, Joanne Haynes and Bob Haynes that we have such a high-quality service each week.

Currently, we are able to offer one blended service on YouTube each Sunday. I know this is not ideal. We enjoy having two services; a contemporary and a traditional one. But given the time it takes to film and edit each week, we simply don't have the resources to offer another worship service. The only way we could offer a second service is if we had more volunteers to help, especially with the editing process. If anyone is familiar with editing and would like to volunteer, please let us know.

Following our conference recommendation, the executive board voted to continue with the online service and keep our building closed through the summer. This was done out of an abundance of caution to keep the congregation safe. But as summer winds down, we are starting the discussion on how to reopen the church.

This will be a careful and unhurried process. The first thing we are doing is establishing a COVID Task Force, a small team that will include members with experience in the health care fields. This team will be working on a survey to the congregation to gain input from all members on their needs and ideas for reopening. As we progress in these steps, we will keep everyone informed by updates in the newsletter and announcements during the online worship services.

I feel very blessed to be part of such a wonderful faith community. If you have questions, ideas, or news to share, please feel free to contact me at carolvetter99@gmail.com.

Carol Vetter
Church President

Zoom Fellowship Meetings will resume this Sunday, July 26th at 10:00 AM, with a topic of Vacations! Look for our email on Sunday morning with the link to join us. We can't wait to see you all!

Aprons in Action



While we worship remotely, be assured that the business needs of the church are still being met by the very capable team of Mary Louise McMillan and David Nelson. They come in at least twice a month to make deposits and handle the other administrative matters that arise. David handles all of the pledge record keeping and reporting, and Mary Louise keeps the bills paid as well as performing all the accounting functions for the church. We are so grateful that they volunteer their time and talents to our church.

Thank you David and Mary Louise!



Peace Dale Congregational Church

Story Hour

Sunday mornings at 10
via Zoom
July 26 – August 16

If interested, please contact our
Youth Connect Preschool Teacher
Susan Krochin at skrochin@hotmail.com
for more information.



Job Posting

The Board of Christian Education is looking for a new Director of Youth Group(s). To view more about this job posting, please see the following link.

<http://www.peacedalechurch.org/wp-content/PDCC/PDCCjobposting.pdf>

An Update Regarding Confirmations

The executive board has agreed to the recommendation of the confirmation instructors to not hold confirmation this year. Below are their thoughtful considerations for why this difficult decision was made.

After having confirmation for 2 years running, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, we skipped last year 2019-2020 as we did not have enough youth. The thought was to hold it every other year. We had planned to hold it this year, but unfortunately Covid-19 and the Pandemic landed our way.

Our first thought is from a safety standpoint. We do not know what this virus will continue to do. When PDCC does open, it will need to be under strict guidelines. We do not feel it would be safe for the kids, instructors, and mentors to interact as they would need to. We believe that a lot would be lost if we tried to do this online. High schoolers will probably end up with some type of distance learning in their schools. Adding confirmation to "online" can add to an already stressful situation with one more thing to do.

Confirmation should be a transformative experience. Building relationships with each other, their instructors, and their mentors is vital to building those connections that will help along their faith journey. Our last two confirmation classes have been very successful. We feel that the youth are better able to foster a group identity when they are able to share face to face. A lot would be lost in the translation if they were on Zoom or had to have discussions from across the room. Also in-church service opportunities, Good Friday service planning, group projects, and other mission related activities would be lost.

There really is no harm in waiting an additional year. Traditionally confirmation was offered to those in grades 10 and up. We changed it to 9th grade only to allow for more youth involvement. Waiting 1 more year will help in recruiting more potential confirmands.

It is our hope that you understand our concerns and reasons for not wanting to hold confirmation this year. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions.

Blessings,
Bob Hackey & Linda Redmond, Confirmation Instructors

**July Mission of the Month:
T.A.S.K. (Toward an Anti-Racist
South Kingstown)**

An organization dedicated to enacting antiracist policy changes in our community.

A small update, checks are to be made to PDCC with TASK in the memo line, as is the normal protocol for the Mission of the Month, it was my (Jami's) bad and I misspoke last week and I am sorry for any confusion.

If you have any other questions you can email me at jamimarie93@gmail.com or call me at 605-351-3420..

If you know of anyone in need of prayers or a prayer shawl please notify the office.



Curbside Pick Up for Scrip will be held this Sunday July 26 from 12:30-2:00pm. Please contact Deb Shaw (dkshaw5@cox.net) with any questions. Thanks for supporting SCRIP and PDCC!!

NOTE FROM THE
GREEN TEAM



Twice the Green Team has tried to schedule a tour of the state land fill in Johnston to see how the land fill was constructed and presently used, and to observe the automated sorting of recyclables. Unfortunately, both scheduled trips have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus threat. As an alternative, I direct you to the two virtual field trips here:

Video, sorting and processing recyclables, https://youtu.be/Jda_9_30-WU and

Video, building a safe landfill, <https://youtu.be/RyhQQziYA3s>

These are well performed and give you a realistic glimpse into important aspects of recycling and waste disposal. Remember, the mission of our Green Team is to **TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES IN OUR CHURCH, OUR HOMES, and OUR COMMUNITIES**. Even now when the church is temporarily closed, we can improve recycling practices in our homes and in our communities.

Your Green Team, Don Hermes, co-chair

Missions Board

Next week, July 29th, we will have another documentary discussion! We will be meeting around 6pm to stream it, with a discussion following. Right now the documentary has not been selected, but to keep on top of all documentary discussion information [please sign up for the email list here!](#)



We would like to wish a happy birthday to the following people:

Richard Curtis	07/22	Gayle Keinard	07/28
John Manchester	07/23	Kevin Simmons	07/28
Carol Vetter	07/23	Joel LaShomb	07/29
Emily Krochin	07/23	James O'Connor	07/29
J. Benjamin Bradley	07/24	Beth Anderson	07/29
Judy Rametta	07/24	Ellen Hefler	07/31
James Algie	07/25		

Upcoming Worship Services, Meetings, & Events at Peace Dale Church

Prayer Circle meeting via Zoom - Tuesdays at 9:30am (ongoing weekly meetings)

Prayer Shawl Gathering Via Zoom - Fridays at 2:30pm (ongoing weekly meetings)

Zoom Meeting: Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00pm-815pm **TOPIC: "White Fragility"**

Zoom Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, July 26 at 10:00AM **TOPIC: Vacations**

Zoom Story Hour: Sunday, July 26 at 10:00 AM

Curbside Scrip Pick Up: Sunday, July 26, 12:30-2:00PM at the church!

Online Worship Service via YouTube on Sundays

Please send Ashley items for the church calendar at
[**office@peacedalechurch.org**](mailto:office@peacedalechurch.org)



PDCC Now on Amazon Smile

Please see the following link to read more about what Amazon Smile is and how to use it!

<http://peacedalechurch.org/wp-content/PDCC/amazonsmileinfo.pdf>



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Peace Dale

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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."

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

VOLUNTEER YOUTH CONNECT ADMINISTRATOR:

MEG KOLODZIEJ

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PASTOR EMERITUS:

DR. LAWRENCE A. WASHBURN

**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)*

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