



Peace Dale

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

E-Light Newsletter

September 23, 2020



Happy Autumn!

Yesterday, at 9:30 am, we officially celebrated the autumnal equinox! The seasons are changing, and I'm reminded that it was about this time last year when I preached my candidating sermon to you! I never could've imagined how many crises we would be living through right now.

The good news is that we as a faith family are not only surviving but we are reaching new people, on a much wider basis, with a new online worship ministry. However, I know we are missing each other due to the pandemic, and Zooming all our meetings brings challenges of a different kind. In order to help nurture and facilitate our relationship, in these socially distanced times, I wanted to let you know that we have formed a new Pastoral Relations Committee.

What is a Pastoral Relations Committee? According to the UCC...

The Pastoral Relations Committee serves in two primary ways:

- *as an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor;*
- *as a support group for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.*

Recognizing that the pastor/parish relationship is not one of employee/employer but rather a called ministry bound by covenant, the PRC plays a unique and important role.

The goal of a Pastoral Relations Committee is to promote faithful, shared ministry between the pastor and the congregation.

The Pastoral Relations Committee helps advise, assist and promotes the growth of the relationship between the clergy person and the congregation. One role of the PRC is to facilitate communication between the church and pastor. You are always encouraged to reach out to the pastor, me, directly with any concerns or joys and I do welcome and encourage you to do that, but if for some reason you'd prefer speaking with a PRC member you can do that as well. The PRC will be making every effort to encourage direct communication with the pastor (intentionally avoiding triangulation). The PRC will promote healthy communication within the congregation and will meet quarterly as a group, including the pastor.

There are a few things that the Pastoral Relations Committee is not. For example, the PRC is not the personnel committee and does not lead the process of pastoral evaluation. Its function is to strengthen the pastor/parish relationship and will not harbor secret meetings. Open, honest, and transparent communication is the goal, not anonymity. Following best practices, the PRC will not pass anonymous concerns on to the committee. We read in the Bible, in multiple places, like in Matt. 18, that if we have a significant issue with someone we are to go directly to them, and that is my expectation for our relationship, and I would expect you to hold me to the same expectation. Again following best practices according to the UCC, the PRC will not conduct polls or surveys. If input is needed from the wider congregation re: feedback or a concern, then the congregation is encouraged to reach out to the PRC members.

When used in a healthy way, the Pastoral Relations Committee can be a blessing to both the congregation and the pastor. It can help the pastor and congregation to share clarity about the values, expectations, and priorities for ministry, with an eye toward fruitful communication. Our denomination says it well, "A Pastoral Relations Committee, if tended with prayer and wisdom, can have a profound impact on the shared ministry of a pastor and congregation."

Thank you to the below church members who have graciously agreed to help facilitate our ministry together! May God bless our partnership and our faith family as we head into a new season in the life of Peace Dale Congregational Church.

Pastoral Relations Committee Members:

Jim Blackerby, Linda Redmond, Peter Swain, Bob Van Cleef, Eve Keenan

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Fred



Important Pumpkin Update

Please visit the following link to view an important update regarding the arrival of the pumpkins!

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

September Mission: Doctors without Borders: Yemen support

The war in the middle-eastern country of Yemen has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises with more than 24 million people – some 80 per cent of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 12 million children. These millions of people depend on humanitarian assistance for survival because of displacement by the fighting. The medical projects headed by **Doctors without Borders** (DWB) in Yemen are among their organizations biggest worldwide.

As of 2018, at least 10,000 Yemenis have been killed by the fighting, two million have been displaced, and the fastest spreading cholera epidemic recorded in history has been wiping out the remaining population. With COVID-19 now spreading rapidly, Yemen is facing an emergency within an emergency. The health system is in ruins across the whole county.

The war is complex but mainly pits the Saudi Arabia coalition (made up of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, and Senegal) vs. the Houthi rebels supported mainly by Iran. The Yemen civilian population of children, women, and others are caught in the middle and are suffering miserably.

Your financial support to help the civilian population under siege is urgent and appreciated by the Missions Board.

Submitted by: Don Hermes, Board of Missions co-chair

Green Team Agenda

Wednesday, 9/30/20, Zoom Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

“OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES IN OUR CHURCH, OUR HOMES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES.”

We invite all interested persons to our ZOOM meeting (contact Don Hermes, dhermes33@gkmail.com to be invited)

1. Old Business, reviews
 - a) Recycling (anything new?)
 - b) RISE energy assessment, (Earl)
 - c) CARI, continuing Chase Bank action, Endorsed political candidates with environmental emphasis (Claudia)
2. New Business
 - a. ECONNEWS (discussion & promotion; <https://www.ecori.org/>)
 - b. Collaborative effort with Board of Education, Claudia
 - c. The New Green Deal (what is it? Discussion. [The Green New Deal, explained - YouTube](#))
 - d. The Sunrise Movement (What is it? Discussion. See [Our Principles - Sunrise Movement](#))
 - e. Solar for the church:
 - i. Solar cells?
 - ii. Shared investment? Community solar. [Community Solar: What is it? | EnergySage](#)

Dinner Table Update!

Please visit this link for a very important and long anticipated update regarding the PDCC Dinner Table!

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

For information on how to order a meal, please see this second link:

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Democracy is threatened when people cannot vote. Please take 40 minutes and check out this documentary before our November election. Great for family discussions. See link below.

From the United Church of Christ Facebook page: September 1 at 3:35 PM, the 40 minute screening of "Suppressed: The Fight To Vote." You may be aware of some of the tactics to keep people from voting, but this is an eye opener which is very relevant before our November 3rd election. Stacy Abrams was running for governor in Georgia. See what happened and is still happening in our country. Suitable for adults and HS students. The movie starts at 5:20 into the webinar. Highly recommended.

<https://youtu.be/mlyGjXp3nDA>

"Power, Privilege & Social Justice" is a three-part series that explores the history and struggle for African Americans to achieve Civil Rights **in Providence** over a 300-year period. The series begins with the arrival of enslaved Africans and continues through history to the unfinished business of today.

PART 1: EARLY AFRICAN ARRIVALS & RESISTANCE recounts the early arrivals of enslaved Africans to Providence and Rhode Island.

Wed. 9/23, 6 to 7 PM

PART 2: SEPARATE & UNEQUAL Focuses on the social and political conditions faced by the African heritage community in Providence during the 19th century.

Wed. 9/30, 6 to 7 PM

PART 3: THE ONGOING STRUGGLE Explores the 20th century and the fight for fair employment during the World War Years and fight for fair housing during the 1950s through 1960s. There will also be a discussion of the unfinished business of social justice within the present-day Black Lives Matter movement, Wed. 10/7, 6 to 7 PM Please get tickets for each part through Eventbrite and you will receive instructions on how to join.

Click on the individual links in purple above.

Through the generous donations of members and friends of the church the PDCC Local Crisis Fund has collected \$13,227.25 to help South County neighbors in need during the Coronavirus pandemic. So far we have helped six South County families with rent and food in the amount of \$6,040.00. Due to the continuation of the corona virus pandemic the church is continuing to receive applications. Additional donations would be greatly appreciated. They can be sent to the church with the PDCC Local Crisis Fund in the memo section or by contacting the church to inquire about electronic giving options. The church and the Mission Board thank all those who have made donations.



Reminder:

Curbside Pickup this Sunday, September 27th from 12:30PM – 2:00PM in the church parking lot.

Questions? Contact Deb Shaw at dkshaw5@cox.net

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)

Youth Connect Via Zoom – Sunday September 27 at 9:30AM

Zoom Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, September 27 at 10:00AM

Online Worship Service via YouTube on Sundays

Please send Ashley items for the church calendar at
office@peacedalechurch.org



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

Walter Young	09/23	Raymond Christian	09/28
Debbie Waterman	09/23	David Proctor	09/28
Morgan Stafford	09/25	Jennifer Bamford	09/28
Sandra Thomas	09/25	Bethany Hopfer	09/28
Haley Bumpus	09/25	Barbaralee Fiske	09/29
Keith Wahl	09/26	Nina Palombo	09/29
Lawrence Washburn	09/27		



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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>



Donate to PDCC from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader to give through PayPal. Thank you.



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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