



# Peace Dale

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

## E-Light Newsletter

July 29, 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

## **Aprons in Action**



**Our faith Community recognizes Carol Edwards for her outstanding gift of over 700 handmade masks. Sitting at her sewing machine by the front window of her home during the last few months, she has prayerfully sewn both adult and children's masks in a variety of colorful patterns and designs. She has a basket out front on her lawn offering them free to the community and she has a small sign that says they are a gift from PDCC.**

**She has even taken special requests for masks from Tom Mather, Janet Goodhart and others who wanted to share them with specific colleagues and other friends. She accepts no money for either her supplies or talents and graciously donates her time and efforts to help others during this pandemic.**

**Truly, God's Love in Action. A real Apron wearing Christian sharing her talents and faith with others. Thank you, Carol.**

## **COVID TASK FORCE**

The Executive Board has just appointed a new COVID Task Force. This team will be considering when and how to reopen our church building. However, as we did close our building, we never stopped the work of our faith community; we have worship services online, groups continue to meet via zoom, and boards and committees also continue to meet by zoom. But finding a safe way to come back together to worship in person is critical. This team will consider the many concerns that arise as we study this process.

The COVID Task Force members are Pastor Fred, Dr. John Golberg, an orthopedic surgeon who also serves on the Board of Property Management, Eve Keenan, our past president who has a background in nursing and extensive experience at South County Hospital, Joanne Haynes, the chair of our Technology Committee, and Carol Vetter, the church president.

This team will be collecting data and information as a first step in the reopening process. Update announcements will be made here in the newsletter and during our online worship services. We thank these members for volunteering to help us move forward during these challenging times.



The Mission of the Month for August is Neighbors Helping Neighbors RI (NHNRI). We were introduced to this organization last year when Tina Lundgren, the Executive Director came and spoke to our Congregation.

NHNRI provides home repairs at no cost to low-income qualifying homeowners in South County, RI enabling families to remain in their homes. NHNRI was established in July 2012 as a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization.

They are a 100% volunteer organization, including their Executive Director and Board of Directors. NHNRI is unique in that by providing home repairs at no cost, they not only repair a home, but they also offer the homeowner and the community a preventative solution to homelessness. NHNRI works year- round, completing 45-50 projects per year. Projects range from small repairs, interior and exterior painting, to electrical and plumbing work, to roof repairs, to roof replacements. Costs for projects range from \$300. To \$5,000.

They are completely dependent upon donations from individuals, foundations, towns and businesses. Because they have a low overhead, not having any paid staff or physical office of their own, funds raised go predominantly to the cost of building materials and necessary liability insurance for their volunteers and Board of Directors.

Please consider supporting this worthy cause by making a donation to our church for the special monthly offering in August.

Thank you for your consideration.  
The Mission Board – Heather Etter



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](mailto: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>

### 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/lda\\_9\\_30-WU](https://youtu.be/lda_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

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



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

Joel LaShomb	07/29	Cheryl Wilson	08/04
James O'Connor	07/29	Nathan Erban	08/05
Beth Anderson	07/29	Marin Holden	08/06
Ellen Hefler	07/31	Artemis Ramaker	08/07
Olivia Bumpus	08/01	Sandra Robinson	08/07
Kelly Burnap	08/02	Amy Fratiello	08/07
Matthew Kneeland	08/03	Sharon Lankford	08/07

## 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 Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, August 2 at 10:00AM TOPIC: **Vacations**

Zoom Story Hour: Sunday, August 2 at 10:00 AM

Online Worship Service via YouTube on Sundays

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



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Facebook!

[Facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch)

### 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. Thanks!



# 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](mailto: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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

ASHLEY DIGREGORIO  
[OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG)

**PASTOR EMERITUS:**

DR. LAWRENCE A. WASHBURN

**Be sure to visit our website  
for all sorts of information related to PDCC!  
[peacedalechurch.org](http://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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