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connections



STORIES OF GRACE & PEACE | PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONTENTS

p. 2

pastor's note



p. 3

pop on the front lines



p. 7

a world restored with grace and peace



p. 9

a faithful journey



p. 12

Operation love thy neighbor



p. 14

opening doors amidst covid



p. 19

Our ongoing ministry: a bible study



p. 20

is that jesus?



p. 19

always a mom



p. 22

clm in haiti



p. 26

a letter to 2020 graduates



p. 26

for all the saints



PASTOR'S NOTE

When we published our last edition of *Connections*, we could not have imagined the circumstances that would surround this edition. The world has changed dramatically in these last months, which means that there have been dramatic changes for Prince of Peace. We are doing things differently these days, but our mission and vision remain the same. Whatever the state of the world is, we are called to live & love like Jesus as we seek a world restored with grace and peace. This means that we proclaim a message of life-changing hope. We continue to build and foster real connections with each other, people in our communities, and our partners around the world. And we live lives of service that reflect God's greater purpose in our world.

In this current reality, some days it is difficult to focus on this greater purpose. I hope you are inspired by the stories in this magazine that demonstrate how the people of our community are serving this greater purpose even in the face of the challenges that surround us. The Holy Spirit is moving in our midst, calling us, and encouraging us with the hope-filled promise of better days ahead.

God's peace and joy be with you in these still unsettled times. My heart aches for the time when this pandemic will be behind us, and we can fully embrace a safe homecoming for all members to worship, study, and fellowship in our building. In the meantime, know that the prayers of our entire staff are with you, and we remain ready to assist you in any way that we can.

We have been forced to modify the gathered expression of our community, but the bonds of love and commitment to our mission are not diminished. Thank you for your commitment, your undaunted service, and your generous support to empower our ministry.

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

POP ON THE FRONT LINES: FINDING STRENGTH IN CO-WORKERS, FAMILY, AND FAITH

BY KAREN VANCE

Extra hours. Uncertainty. Concern for loved ones. For Prince of Peace's essential workers, the COVID-19 crisis came with a variety of emotions, but with a greater appreciation of co-workers, family, and faith as well.

Chris Kuhn worked 40 hours and went to school full-time, and at the height of the stay-at-home order, worked as many as 70 hours a week as a frontline manager at Kroger. Matt Cronin was typically scheduled for 10 to 15 hours a week at Target. He saw that rocket to as many as 45 hours a week during the COVID-19 crisis.

These young Prince of Peace members, Chris a now recently graduated senior and Matt an incoming senior, saw first-hand what it means to be an "essential" worker during a global pandemic.

Chris manages registers, baggers, and the checkout experience at his Kroger store, and he's had the opportunity to work on cash flow and accounting as part of the management team. It interests him, and motivated him to go into management.

"I never really felt like I didn't want to work. I knew it was what I needed to do," he said. "I'm committed to my store and my co-workers, and I was willing to make sacrifices to keep things going during the COVID-19 crisis."

But he and his family continue to take precautions, knowing that he comes into contact with a lot of people every day.

"I feel like retail is really at the forefront of employee protection because we have so much face-to-face interaction. When I come home, I get my own bathroom; nobody comes into my room, and I disinfect before I come into the house."

At work, he's impressed with how people interact with him and the other employees at Kroger.

"I'll see a customer buy a cold drink as they go through the checkout line and give it to the cashier or the bagger," he said. "People go out of their way with acts of kindness, small and large, and show us that they really do care."

His experience at Kroger inspired him to switch his major to operations management. He starts at University of Cincinnati in the fall, but will continue working full-time at Kroger.

Matt is a fulfillment expert picking out and preparing online orders for pickup. His store went from 1500-2000 units a day to about 4000 units a day.

"It is definitely strange to see fewer people in the store, and the online orders going up and up, but when I thought about how the work was helping people who aren't able to shop inside the store get what they need, it was really rewarding."



Chris Kuhn at a graduation ceremony Kroger put on for its employees



Matt Cronin

That and the support and friendships with his co-workers helped keep him motivated during those long hours.

"I have a good group of friends that I've made at Target, and we all realized that we're in this together."

Serving Those Most At Risk

Matt's mom Tania, a social worker for the Veteran's Administration (VA), found her schedule relatively unchanged by the crisis, but the need for the work she was doing was accelerated.

"We all came to work every day. We just didn't see any patients in the office."

Client visits – for her and her co-workers – became phone calls and virtual visits using a privacy-protected app called Veteran Care Manager.

"All of us were in the same boat, so we could talk or vent or work something out together. The sense of comradery is really strong. But we are a little sick of seeing only each other – and only our faces from the nose up."

Normally, a provider with the VA has a patient pool of 1,100 to 1,200, so that's a lot of people who are typically in and out of the building. Her clinic is one of the biggest and busiest, serving 5,000 to 6,000 veterans.

The older demographic was also among the most vulnerable

to the coronavirus.

"We made a lot of phone calls to at risk patients, making sure they had food, that they were doing ok, had their medications, that they were staying quarantined," Tania said, adding that they're only serving about 25% of the regular schedule right now.

"The conversations were a little longer than usual. We know that mental health is just as important as physical health. Being isolated can be very hard," she said. Her team even figured out a way to do contactless drop off and pick-up of hearing aids for veterans who needed repairs.

"All of us were in the same boat, so we could talk or vent or work something out together. The sense of comradery is really strong. But we are a little sick of seeing only each other – and only our faces from the nose up."

The clinic opened a food pantry back in November, which became a valuable resource for vets during the crisis, as it turned into a drive-in pick-up.

Sometimes a Shipment is More than Just a Box of Stuff

Mike Harris is the store manager at a UPS near Bethesda North Hospital and several retirement communities. He saw very quickly how essential that role became.

"People were shipping packages to family and friends in need. People needed to pick up medication or other essential items that had been shipped to them. For our repeat customers, they feel like family, and I really wanted to be there for them."

"It was a little daunting, but I'm usually the only person working in the store at a time. They come in close, and the only barrier was the counter. At first I was really stressed because no one knew how long the virus lived on surfaces, and it was on my radar just how many boxes I receive and touch and move every day."

He was primarily worried about getting sick and bringing it home to Sara, who has asthma. "It really did bring home the idea of what is essential work," he said.

Sara was working at home in a whole new way. As a teacher who works with 5 and 6-year-olds with special needs – everything had to be reinvented when they moved school home.

"I did 135 Zoom calls in 5 weeks. It was like flying a plane while you're still building it. I learned a lot and it's messy, but you do what you need to do for your students."

After taking a two-week spring break, Little Miami continued with a regular school schedule through the end of the year. All



The Harris family at POP's June outdoor worship service

of her work needed to continue to be live direct instruction, because it requires immediate feedback to make progress.

In some cases it was hard to connect with students due to connectivity issues, or each family's schedule and their own challenges through the crisis.

"For a few of my students, it was a real blessing to allow me to help a parent be their child's teacher. They could see firsthand how I work with them and learn techniques and strategies," she said.

When they weren't working, they enjoyed family time with Carson, an incoming Junior at Little Miami. With his sister Lauren in Columbus, Carson had the family to himself and did a lot of the grocery shopping and errands.

"The three of us are pretty introverted, so it was quiet," Sara said. "We had time to just be a family, and Carson did a lot of cooking. Life just kind of slowed down."

When classes were cancelled at Capital University, Lauren stayed in Columbus. She'd planned to be the summer nanny to two cousins. Instead, she became the COVID-19 nanny, occupying an 8-year-old and a 6-year-old while their parents – an IT professional and a nursing professor – continued to work.

She stayed connected to the family with Facetime and texting, and she tuned in from Columbus to participate in Prince of Peace online worship. Those online services helped the Harris family feel connected to the church community and each other – even as they went through the stay at home order separately and with varying experiences.

"She's been looking for Prince of Peace in Columbus and just hasn't been able to replicate it," Sara said. "She is really hoping we keep showing worship online so she can still be a part of it."

The Harris family saw each other in person for the first time since the crisis began on June 14 and attended the outdoor in-person worship together.

Healthcare in a Time of Uncertainty

Online services served as a lifeline for Treva Lyke as she continued her work as a pediatric ER nurse at Children's Hospital Medical Center.

She said listening to the services during her commute to or from work helped too. "There's something calming about hearing and singing along to music that is familiar."

Before the crisis, she worked 24 hours a week in shifts spread between two ERs and five Urgent Care centers, most often

"Early on, the unknown of it was unsettling," she said. "The comradery is amazing – coming together with co-workers and listening to each other's thoughts and concerns and feelings."



Treva Lyke, masked and ready to go at Children's

working evenings. Through the crisis, Children's needed her downtown in the ER on two 12-hour day shifts a week.

It's required a change in their family schedule - especially since Toby works from home, juggling the three kids - Theo, 10, Amalie, 8, and Roman, 5.

"I just take it one day at a time. When I come home, I decon (decontaminate) and help put the kids to bed and unwind. I have to give myself some space and process," she said. "I do find that I'm praying more and taking a deep breath when I'm feeling overwhelmed."

Through it all she said the friendships with coworkers has helped her power through uncertainty and facing risk.

"Early on, the unknown of it was unsettling," she said. "The comradery is amazing - coming together with co-workers and listening to each other's thoughts and concerns and feelings."

For Dana Richardson, a certified registered nurse anesthetist, uncertainty was a part of every work week.

"We were on spring break with the kids when

they cancelled elective cases," she said. "They asked everyone if they wanted to take the week off because there was not enough work."

As she continued to take the voluntary time off each week Dana ended up with an 8-week furlough.

"I was able to spend time with my family and help the kids as they transitioned to remote learning," she said. "But there was always the uncertainty that they may call me in and may need me to work in the ICU, as we'd seen other nurse anesthetists doing in other parts of the country."

She said she was mentally preparing for what she may be asked to do, and researching COVID-19, its treatments and all of the safety protocols.

"When we saw that we were successful in flattening our curve, then we started talking about going back to work," she said.

She's been busy since elective surgeries are allowed again, but she's returned to a new normal, with extra precautions. In her specialty, she intubates patients and is in close contact with each patient.

"I'm getting back into my rhythm, and the mood overall is just one of being cautious and careful," she said.

To help her manage the uncertainty, she's been focused on getting enough sleep and exercise. Her Journey Group from Lent has continued to meet even after Easter. "We've been discussing where we are in our lives, and our prayer needs, and how we're dealing with the stress and our emotions," she said. "Even while we've been apart, it's become more obvious to me how important and uplifting the relationships we've built at church are. Going to church every Sunday from the couch has been a great anchor point for me and for our family." ■



Dana Richardson, adjusting to new PPE requirements

A WORLD RESTORED WITH GRACE & PEACE

BY PASTOR LORNE

God's vision in creating the world was beauty, joy, harmony, and pleasure. I believe the vision God had in creating humanity was for the very Spirit of God that spoke into existence the creation, to live inside of us. The same life-force that created the mountains, animals, trees, and bodies of water would live inside of people. The second chapter of Genesis tells us that God formed Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the *Ruach Elohim* or the "Spirit of God" or "breath of God". We are told that this breath of God is what gave humanity life. The intention is that the very Spirit of God would be the air by which we live and breathe, the air by which we have energy to work and labor. The air by which we speak words of encouragement, life, and love into the world.

We read in Micah 3:8, "I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord" and in 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Brokenness and Division Enter the Story

It doesn't take long in the story of Genesis for sin and brokenness to enter the story. Adam and Eve's desire for power and control leads them into disobedience. Cain rises up in jealousy and murders his brother Abel, taking away his breath and suffocating the Spirit of life from his lungs. This will be just the beginning in scripture of what will become one story after another of humanity missing the mark. Brother will turn against brother (Genesis 37), one tribe will rise up against

another (2 Samuel 5). There will be wars among peoples (Joshua 6), betrayal of spouse and family (Genesis 16), systems of slavery will be instituted (Exodus 1), over and over again the creation of God will be mistreated and abused.

The brokenness and pain we see in our world today continues to perpetuate a narrative that is as old as Cain and Abel. It's a story based in fear, anger, hatred, revenge, and power. It's a narrative that sells the lie "wholesale" that might makes right while promoting a scarcity mentality marked by individualism and greed.

We see the destructive forces of this narrative everywhere in our world today, but sometimes we are also blind to the many ways in which these forces have woven their way into our society systemically because we have never known any different. Simply stated: we have been "marinating" in a culture of injustice, pain, and violence for so long that we can no longer "smell" the difference between what is truly fragrant and pleasing to God and what is repugnant.

The Aroma of Christ


"For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing"
2 Corinthians 2:15

The call placed upon the people of God is to live as witness to



**WHERE THERE IS NO VISION,
THE PEOPLE PERISH.**

-Proverbs 29:18



Every activity of the church should move our
community and world towards God's radiant vision
of peace and wholeness in the world.

a different narrative than what the world promotes. We are called to be a witness to the resurrection power of God and the vision of healing and restoration that is marked by God's unconditional love and grace and by God's radical reign of justice which creates lasting peace.

Living as the "aroma" of Christ means that our words, actions, and attitudes should offer sweet fragrance to a world that is tired of smelling rubbish. The couple of times I've been to Copenhagen, Denmark I have enjoyed rising early in the morning and being greeted by the amazing smell of the many bakeries located in the city center. The aroma of freshly baked bread, pastries, and Danish coffee has a powerful way of drawing you in. The smell alone is not what satisfies a hungry stomach, rather, it is the smell that leads you to the truer nourishment and warmth in the loaf.

The same should be true of our walk of faith. We are but the "sweet aroma" of Christ which has the power to draw others into the true "bread of life".

The ministry of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is guided by God's vision of a world restored with grace & peace. Everything we do strives to be informed by this vision of healing and wholeness. The "aroma" of our ministry should smell like grace, peace, hope, and healing.

Vision: serves as our inspiration that draws out our deepest desires while providing a strategic framework to guide our action in the world.

The church doesn't exist for Sunday services...

The church doesn't exist for Christian education...

The church doesn't exist to be a cultural institution...

The church doesn't exist for potlucks...

The church doesn't exist to be yet another social service agency...

Rather, our Sunday services, education, cultural influence, fellowship, and collective action are designed to help keep us steadfast in our call to join God in restoring what is broken in the world. Every activity of the church should move our community and world towards God's radiant vision of peace and wholeness in the world. The old phrase rings true: the church doesn't have a mission, rather, God has a mission in the world and a people (the church) by which to heal what is fractured and broken.

What breaks your heart? What deep longing or desire stirs within you as a follower of Christ? My prayer is that you would be encouraged, inspired, and filled up with courage to use your agency to bring love and life to a hurting world.

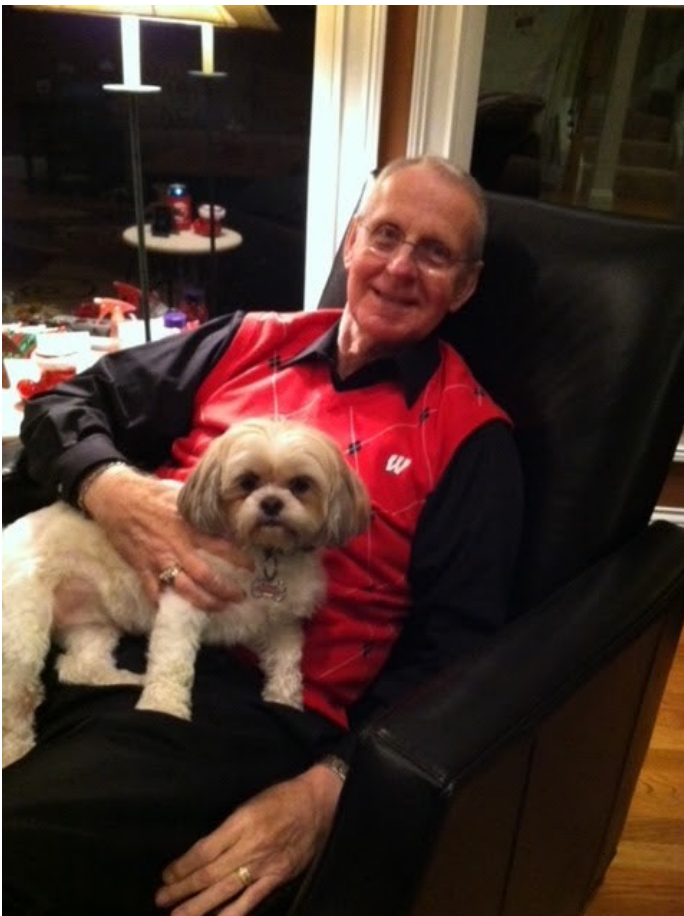
Right now, "The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed" (Romans 8:19). ■

A FAITHFUL JOURNEY

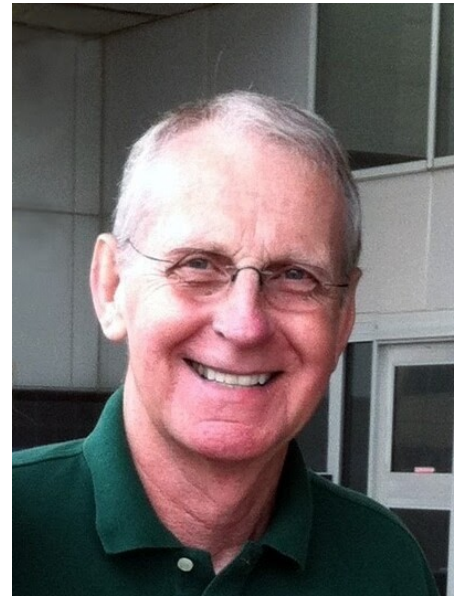
BY JANE STUFFT

Their love for travel supplied Don and Dottie Johnson with an abundance of good memories and fuel for conversation. One journey they shared, however, is best dubbed a venture rather than an adventure. Ventures are risky, daring undertakings, often to places that may be dangerous or unpleasant. Certainly Don's diagnosis and battle with Alzheimer's disease and Dottie's support of him qualify.

Alzheimer's disease affects the brain and causes a mental shut down of the whole body. Don was tested, and his diagnosis was Alzheimer's disease from the start. He lost his balance right away, falling often. Dottie hesitated to leave him alone, even for ten minutes. If she had to run an errand, she posted notes on the doors warning him not to go outside. They didn't always work. One fall resulted in a broken hip and a stay in a rehabilitation facility. He never fully recovered mentally or physically from that broken hip. Instead of going home to the condo he and Dottie had purchased and enjoyed for a year and a half, he moved into Artis, an assisted memory care facility. For four years, Don called Artis home. During his first two years there, Dottie was able to take him home for visits; after that, his deteriorating condition made it impossible for her to physically provide the assistance he needed. Don eventually forgot how to swallow. In January he moved, with Hospice care, to Chesterwood, a skilled nursing facility. Don lived there until his death on April 20.



This timeline is just that. It tells little of the couple's story--their venture. When Don was diagnosed, he was fully aware of what was happening to him. He could even drive himself to the doctor for a while. He and Dottie discussed his illness, accepted it, and decided they could cope with it. Dottie promised him she would learn everything she could about his condition. She attended seminar after seminar. When she got home she shared what she had learned with Don. Then there was Don's fall.



During rehab and his years in Artis, Dottie visited every day. When she left, she often sat in her car and cried for ten minutes before driving home. One struggle as Don's caregiver was being an eyewitness to his losses. His falls were the first. He could sign his name, but she wasn't sure if he could still read; watching him hold the newspaper upside down while he was "reading" it answered that question. She had to tell him he could no longer drive. He had no concept of money. When he forgot how to swallow, eventually dropping 50 to 60 pounds below his normal weight, it was hard for Dottie to watch: "Part of caregiving is seeing the person dissolve in front of you."

"We tried to face lots of issues with humor," Dottie acknowledged. Coping that way was the norm for the couple, so it was natural for them. After Dottie returned from seminars, she would say, "Boy, did we talk about you!" and Don would laugh. When Don refused to take his medicine, she had a comeback: "This is your happy pill, and if you don't take it, I will." Again, she'd get a chuckle and compliance. When the decision was made to go from two cars to one, Don and Dottie went to the dealership together. The salesman suggested a car he thought would be a good fit; Dottie agreed that it was. They would go back the next day for the car. Knowing that Don might resist if he didn't feel like it was his decision, Dottie called the salesman and instructed him to make it seem like this car was all Don's idea, or the deal might not go through; she didn't care how he made that happen. The salesman did, and they had the new car.

There were other coping mechanisms Dottie called on. Her faith was one; so were other people of faith. Chris and Rick

Shipley brought communion to them and ministered to them. They often shared their travel adventures, reminding Don and Dottie of the joy they took in their own travels. Taking things day by day was another. She made a reasonable goal not to dissect too much, to simply be there for Don. She relied on the support of family--their daughter Brigid, son-in-law Tom, and granddaughters Erica and Hallie--and friends. Sometimes strangers even stepped in. "It's amazing how much people help you," Dottie said. She recalls being in the men's restroom helping Don. She called out to signal her presence, and a man offered his assistance. She learned to forgive the things people said because they didn't understand. Dottie admits that loss of sleep because her mind wouldn't shut down at 3 AM was one of her worst enemies. She took solace in the fact that things would look different when the sun came up. She looked at blessings, both obvious and hidden: Don was not in pain. He was happy 95% of the time because he didn't know to be otherwise. He retired at age 50,



so he had 25 years of retirement, much of it doing what he enjoyed.

Dottie also shared topics of importance to caregivers: Educate yourself. Know what to expect. Take things into your own hands. Get finances in order. Don't miss the details either: Valet parking at hospitals is free; don't skip a service that can help you. Medicare won't pay for patients admitted for observation. There are many hospice companies, but not all are nonprofit. Hospice of Cincinnati is and provided wonderful care to Don, even beyond her hopes. Be present often; if you are, problems are usually easier to resolve. Choose the best facility you can because you will always believe you could care for your loved one better.

Don's care took an unexpected turn near the time of his death. He entered Chesterwood in January. Hospice took care of the whole transition and looked at things through different eyes. They set up his room with all new equipment, took him off all medications with no noticeable change in him, provided resources like a social worker, masseuse, pastor, nurse, etc. Knowing he was under their care helped her through the final phase. Between March 11 and Don's death on April 20, Dottie could not visit him. She has no idea what his final five weeks were like. The immediate family was able to be with him when he passed, but he was already unconscious. Don's body was to be donated to the Wright State Medical School Anatomical Gift Program. All labs were closed and they couldn't accept his remains. Mueller Funeral Home stepped in to help at the last minute. There will be a celebration of his life in his native Wisconsin, probably in August. Dottie says the pandemic will forever haunt her, but believes "Don is on a magnificent journey now that we can only dream about." From the beginning, she and Don set a goal to make the best decisions possible. Dottie noted the outcome: "That was the hand we were dealt, and I think that we did the best we could." Agreed. ■



Others at Prince of Peace have stories similar to Don and Dottie's.
Some of them shared their thoughts:

Pete Kutschenreuter on educating yourself:

"When Bonnie had big problems here, I found a very helpful paperback book. It gave a good perspective of what such folks are experiencing and recommendations successful in dealing with it. One I remember was patience and not being in a hurry in dealing with the problem, as it adds to their confusion."



Jeannie Kjos on watching the losses and coping:

"Watching a loved one slowly lose their ability to do favorite hobbies, games, remember friends/family, feed/bathe themselves, and control body functions is heart wrenching. If it were not for our strong faith and love for God and each other, I am not sure how we could have made this painful journey. One of the hardest things for me to bear was seeing my loved one there physically, yet knowing the real person was no longer with me." Jeannie's wish is that they could find a cure for this awful disease. By stealing one's memory, it steals everything from them.



Judy Chamberlain on a change in her way of praying rooted in gratitude:

"My husband D.H. died in November of 2019, 13 1/2 years after an Alzheimer's diagnosis. The disease led me to new prayers. Typically, when someone has a disease and is suffering, we turn to God to make them whole, or at least better in the future. With Alzheimer's the cruel part is that being whole or better is not going to happen. I found my prayers were thanks to God for the past -- for letting us have such a fun and loving marriage, for all the adventures and travel we had, and for, until Alzheimer's, good health. So many friends and family would say, 'I am praying for you.' I would thank them and thank God for that other blessing: people who cared about and loved D.H. I wonder if I would have fully appreciated how good God had been to us without Alzheimer's? That perspective kept me positive and grounded in my faith through those years."

O LORD GOD,
WHO CALLED YOUR SERVANTS
TO VENTURES OF WHICH WE CANNOT SEE THE ENDING,
BY PATHS AS YET UNTRODDEN,
THROUGH PERILS UNKNOWN;
GIVE US FAITH
TO GO OUT WITH GOOD COURAGE,
NOT KNOWING WHERE WE ARE GOING,
BUT ONLY THAT YOUR HAND IS LEADING US,
AND YOUR LOVE IS SUPPORTING US;
TO THE GLORY OF YOUR NAME.

Eric Milner-White (1884-1963) and G.W. Briggs (1875-1959) Anglican clergymen
The Book of a Thousand Prayers

OPERATION LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

BY ANGELA FAULHABER

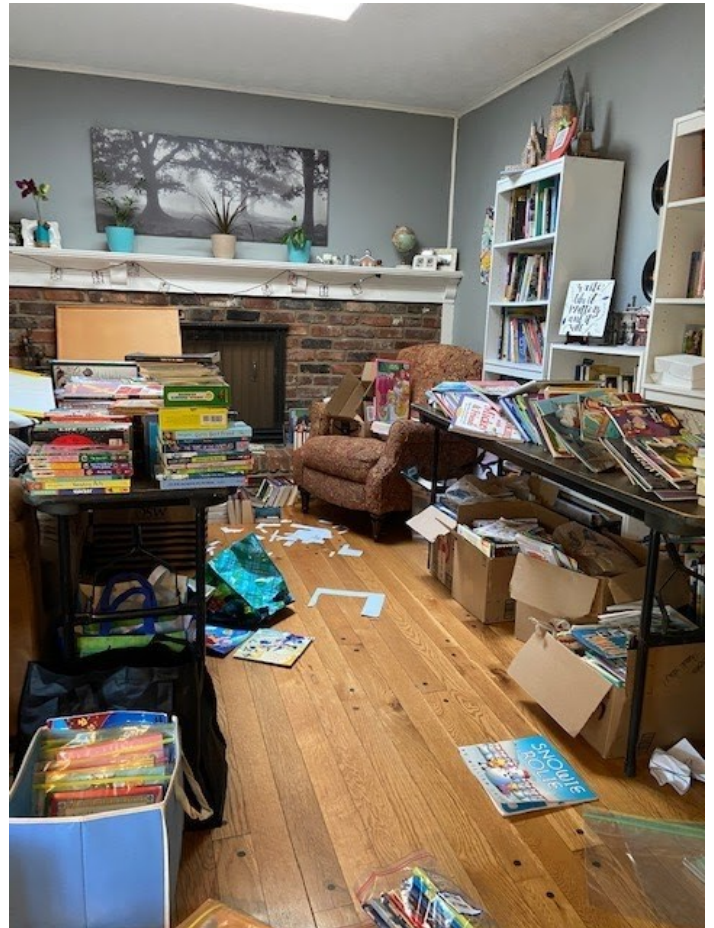
Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. And with that in mind, Prince of Peace recently launched Operation Love Thy Neighbor to call us all to live that message with intention. People in our congregation have been showing that love in so many ways.

In April, a friend posted on social media that she had books to give away. I recently had a conversation with a teacher who was worried her students wouldn't have books to read while school was closed. With that in mind, I offered to pick up the books. Suddenly, my notifications were flooded with others who had books to donate as well. Dozens of families reached out in an effort to love their neighbors.

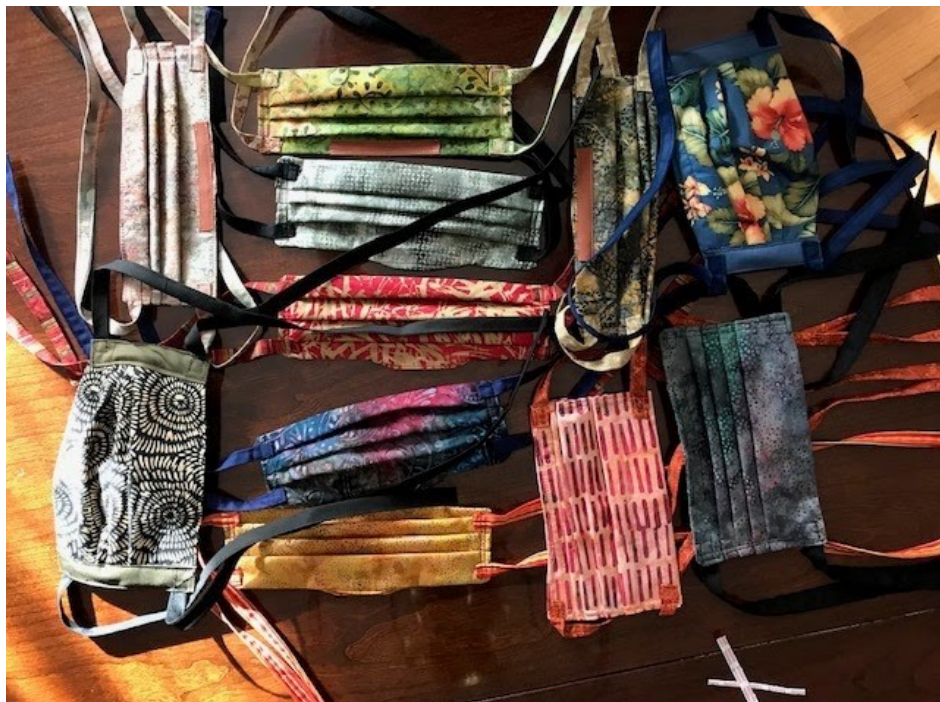
Before I knew it, my home office was spilling books. In just two weeks we collected more than 1,000 books from families around Loveland. I gathered names from teachers and families, compiling a list of students who would receive books delivered right to their door.

A team of people stepped up and delivered books from "The Book Fairy" to front porches. In all, we were able to donate nearly 500 books to 100 families in our area. The rest of the books were donated to the NEST program.

From donating books to mowing lawns to picking up groceries, members of the community have been loving their neighbors.



Long-time POP member Barb Wood has been making masks for various groups. She has been showing love to her neighbors both locally within the POP community as well as across the city and beyond. Drawing on her experience as a Pieces of Peace member, Barb was called to make masks for people as soon as the pandemic hit. She's donated dozens of masks to POP staff, in addition to making hundreds for the Lutheran World Relief fund, area nurses, and others in need. "You want to give back," Barb explained. "You want to help out with the community. It feels like the right thing to do."



Ginger Tomes has gotten her children involved in taking care of their neighbors. From offering childcare for neighbors to participating in birthday drive-bys, Ginger has made it a priority to lead by example.

"My kids see my husband and me taking time to carry out these acts and lifting moods and they see how important it is to not only make sure that we are surviving and thriving in a time like this, but that we make sure that others around us are also feeling Jesus' love and are able to survive and thrive in their world as well," Ginger explained. "They see the compassion, they see the love, they see Jesus in their everyday life when they do things like this."

Sheryl Melvin has also looked in her own neighborhood to find ways to answer Jesus's call. When she noticed that graduating seniors were missing out on traditions, she took the time to write notes to each of the seven graduating seniors in her neighborhood and dropped off a package of home-made cookies (using her mother's special recipe, no less).

According to Sheryl, "Within a day, I had thank you notes stuck in our mailbox and grateful parents thanking me as they strolled by our house on their daily evening walk. It's opened up doors for conversation with people I hadn't met before."

Once the pandemic began, Judi and Jim Alemagno decided to take care of their neighbors in many ways, including praying. They made a list of family members, health care workers, POP staff and leaders. They placed all these names in a bowl and each morning, they pull a name out of the bowl and pray for those specific people. Later in the day, they call someone on their list. "We feel God is calling us to give encouragement and lend an ear. We see how God has given us so much. It was so easy to take everything for granted before, yet now our eyes are open to the blessing of so many others in our lives," Judi has said of the experience.

There are many more ways that people of the POP community are taking care of each other. We'd love to hear your story! Share it with us on our Facebook page. ■



OPENING DOORS AMIDST COVID

BY KAREN SKARDA, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY



As someone who lacks a green thumb, I tried for years to grow a successful garden. In spite of my efforts, the plants barely produced fruit. The only thing that seemed to grow well were weeds. We finally waved the flag a few years ago and declared that 1) we placed the garden in a bad spot where it didn't receive enough light and 2) I frankly don't know a lot about gardening. Whatever I

was doing was not working. I could grow tomatoes and cucumbers, but that was about it.

I decided to install a keyhole garden. A keyhole garden is designed to have food compost at the center, providing ongoing nutrition to your garden. The first year I followed the directions to a T: $\frac{1}{3}$ compost, $\frac{1}{3}$ peat moss and $\frac{1}{3}$ soil, alternating layers of green and brown to organically support life in my small garden. The single plant that initial year overflowed with beautiful cherry tomatoes. I couldn't believe how much fruit was coming out of one plant. Apparently, a much better spot with the right light and the right building blocks, such as compost, did the trick. How amazing that compost, dead, decaying material, was what was needed to bring such abounding new life! I recently discovered two plants that look like a possible melon or cantaloupe. I didn't plant these, but this new life sprung from the seeds that I placed in the center compost over the year.

My confirmation verse of John 15:5 (*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*) has continued to guide me in my life, but especially now during the COVID pandemic. I treasure my daily devotion and meditation time, and with the summer, I have enjoyed the benefit of being able to spend this time with God on our deck, amidst the beauty of creation. Perfect for abiding! I just finished a 12-day bible devotion about "Lessons from Gardening" by Robin Meadows in the YouVersion Bible app, and before that did a 5-day devotional on Beth Moore's new book, "Chasing Vines". Both of these have helped me to abide, pause and see how the fruitfulness in our lives is so similar to the vine that Jesus taught us about. How we also need to ensure that we are receiving enough Light, take time and care to have the proper balance in our lives, and to see

how even through the decaying compost and 'spent things' in our life...new life can grow and THRIVE!

And so it is with Prince of Peace. No one wishes for a pandemic. No one wished for the world to come to a screeching halt. No one wished for us to not be together physically as a community in worship for three months (and counting!). However, even with all of these tragedies and crises, we know that God has been hard at work, using the compost of our lives to grow amazing new fruit. Let's take a look at some new seeds and fruit that have grown from the past three months of the pandemic.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

[Romans 8:28](#)

WORSHIP

Even before the pandemic, people had started asking: When can you do a live-stream of worship? We'd love to see videos of the sermons instead of just listening to the audio. Those are difficult things to do. They take time, skills, and money. Faced with this pandemic where physical distancing is required, our pastors and worship team had to rethink how to lead worship at Prince of Peace so that we could share in worship together online. We are so blessed with pastors and a worship/music team that are passionate, creative, and dedicated to developing a beautiful online worship service each week.



The positive comments from community members have been incredible:

"We never know where we are going each week...from the bike trail, to a lake, to a farm. The worship services are creative and involve many people of the congregation" - Karen Waple

"I really appreciate the time and effort given to the online worship service. There are so many unknowns in this pandemic, but the effort of our worship community has not been a mystery or absent without leave. Rather, it has been thoughtful and calming. I miss singing as a group, but better days ahead."

- Suzi Jarman



With online worship, we have now been able to offer a worship experience to people beyond just at 101 S. Lebanon Road. Some of these people may not have been able to attend our worship service normally due to health restrictions or were just hesitant to walk in the doors. We have heard comments from people saying that they have never “attended” so many worship services in a row - until now.

The Messerly family moved away from Prince of Peace years ago, and now reside in Centerville. They have been worshipping with the POP community online and seek to be re-connected despite the distance between POP and their current life near Dayton.

Karen Staige, Pastor Lorne’s aunt, began engaging in the online worship services online due in part to him, but also because COVID had closed her church. Regarding the messages she receives each week, they are “exactly what I need to hear (whether or not I admit it at the time).” She feels closer to her family through the services, as her sister also attends online, and the bond of family has been strengthened for her. Karen says she will continue to attend even as things “open up” in her community.

The Bizik family moved to the Cincinnati area from Phoenix during the pandemic. They were active in their ELCA church and wanted to find a new community here. Because of the quarantine, they have yet to walk through the church doors, however, through online worship they have been able to “become familiar with the church and to feel less isolated as we quarantine in a new city. It has been grounding and sustaining during this time of transition amid chaos.” They have also been able to remain in contact with their Phoenix church, which they value, through online worship. By “adopting an online presence, that allows me to stay connected to my faith.”

As we prepare to have our first worship services since the quarantine, we are challenged with the question of “what next” for video worship. We know that we want to continue to provide video worship during the COVID crisis, but as we return to an in-person worship service, what will that look like? Creating both an in-person worship experience and an online worship experience takes significant effort, however, as people

called to share the gospel, it is crucial that we continue to explore how to best continue to share worship online with others. Expansion plans are underway to modify our sound booth in the sanctuary so two people can work side by side, managing sound and video. We will be installing several permanent cameras on the wall that can be moved remotely to aid in the video recording of worship, and making changes to how we record audio to improve the overall sound quality.

COMMUNITY

Just as our worship has changed in the midst of COVID, so have the ways in which we are in community with one another. Together with the rest of the world, we are forced to do things differently. I consider myself to be pretty tech savvy, however, I had never even heard of “Zoom” prior to March 2020. Many of us now say that word and use that software throughout each day.

According to a recent study from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shared by the CDC: “Social isolation significantly increased a person’s risk of premature death from all causes, a risk that may rival those of smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity.” It is unfortunate that “social distancing” is the term that caught on at the beginning of the pandemic. It really is “physical distancing”, since socially, we need to be together. We are meant for community. When our only option to see one another in a pandemic is online . . . that is what we have to do and we had to figure that out.

We began weekly video chat check-ins on Zoom on Wednesdays with pastors. Our 10 am Faith Connection time with Pastor Jonathan became a great vehicle for people to meet and connect with one another. How wonderful, on that first Zoom call, to see so many POP family online and hear how they were doing in the pandemic. However, we know that the online calls are not for all. We have several people who don’t have internet, so we have fellow POP family members who dial them on the telephone each week so that they can hear the worship online. We have helped multiple people in our POP community with technical help on how to get connected. I will never forget the look on one of our members’ face as we finally got her connected to Zoom and she and I could see one another for the first time. She teared up, saying that I was the only person that she had seen over many weeks.

Joanne Swanson shares the following on the value of the online video calls with the POP community, “For me, Wednesdays are big and important days because I am in contact with my POP friends and ministers. I get to share concerns, chuckles, and warm caring that I have with my POP family. It lifts my spirits. Plus I’m thankful that Pastors Lorne and Jonathan share Bible passages



and Christian lessons to help in these times of pandemic. Best of all is the time we have to pray together. Each day I thank God for the ministers and staff of POP.”

Pastor Lorne has kicked off “Pub Theology” (via Zoom) on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. He has been dreaming and thinking for years about how to host a pub theology since it brought challenges of where to host it, how to find a brewery that is available, how can people hear you over the noise, etc. With the pandemic and Zoom, “POP Pub Theology” was born and most likely will continue in this format long after we are finally able to be together safely in the same room. During Pub Theology, Pastor Lorne has everyone share something as an ice breaker, then with the use of technology, transports people into “breakout rooms” where small groups can discuss the topic of the evening. Pub Theology has covered everything from “Face Masks and Faith”, to the values and mission of POP, to Martin Luther’s thoughts on pandemics, to the Black Lives Matter movement. Pub Theology is a safe place to wrestle with challenging topics together, in a community of faith.



Tina Nelson, a frequent attendee at the online “Pub”, together with her husband, Neil, shares, “I’ve really enjoyed the format of Pub Theology. It is ‘topic teaching’, so if you miss a week, you are still current with time for discussion in small groups. I’ve had conversations with many members whom I’ve never talked with because I’ve attended different services. It’s a nice opportunity to connect with others, listen to different points of view, and an opportunity to grow!”

Our youth were quick to adapt to Zoom, especially since they were already using online tools for school. Mary Ellen Helms, POP Director of Youth & Family Mission, who thrives on relationships with others, knew that our youth needed to remain connected. She quickly launched weekly Zoom calls to check in with our youth and young adults, share their highs and lows, and connect with each other. Firmly Planted, our Catechism program for 7th and 8th graders, moved online with videos from pastors and Zoom calls to connect and teach. Together, she and Ginger Tomes, our Kids Ministry Coordinator, created engaging videos and materials to connect with our youngest kiddos - creativity abounding! This year, they have also partnered with Good Shepherd Lutheran in Kenwood to launch an at-home VBS experience, called “Shake

it Up Café”, mixing it up with crafts, foodology, snacks, puppet shows, and music.

But even our youth tire of connecting online so they have begun ‘physically distant’ socializing activities through the summer, such as hanging out at Nisbet park for a Hawaiian ice, hiking, and just chilling 6’ away from one another in the parking lot at POP.

Right before the pandemic, POP started a new women’s ministry called “Wonderfully Made”, a time to connect with other women, grow in community and faith, and learn something new each month from another woman on how to experience joy in life. Our first “Wonderfully Made” gathering in February 2020, in person at POP, was amazing! We had almost 50 women participating and the next day, I reserved the Sanctuary and Gathering Space for the next monthly gathering to ensure we had enough space for more. Then the quarantine happened. This new ministry that had started with a bang had to evolve to continue. Since February, we have hosted two “Wonderfully Made” online gatherings on Zoom where we have explored the themes of “Breathe” and “Show me the Way”. These sessions have given us a chance to connect with other women, explore the benefits and relaxation of yoga with Leahn Meyer and discover how to develop a bullet journal with Anne Laun. The online version of “Wonderfully Made” cannot fully replace being together, but through adaptation we have been able to connect and grow in this period of physical isolation.



Even with all the online technology available, we have returned to using some ‘old ministry skills’ such as the telephone. Years ago we had a telecare ministry where people would call a list of POP members, check on them, and ask for any prayer requests. We discontinued Telecare when people no longer answered their phones, due to not being home when people called, or simply not answering (thank you robocalls). However, we knew that with the COVID pandemic, we needed to ensure that we were in communication with our POP family.

With a team of over 25 dedicated and caring POP individuals, we created the Calling Care Team, a group of people who

would reach out to the POP community who were high risk individuals for COVID, checking to see if they were okay and if they needed anything. Through the Calling Care Team and together with the members of POP council, we have reached out via phone to the full POP community and continue to call as needed for individuals or families. Several people on our Calling Care Team commented on how they never expected people to answer when they called; but they did - and they wanted to talk! Leave it to a pandemic to make people want to answer their phone, even at the risk of picking up a robocall. Members have commented how much they appreciate the personal phone calls and knowing that someone cares.

Many agree that after months of being quarantined at home, it will be incredibly wonderful once we are able to safely be physically together again. For now, we have some new tools in our toolbox on how to foster community when we can't all be in the same room, offering many benefits that we didn't have before.

EXPANDING CHURCH

Jesus commissioned us to "go and make disciples" and COVID has challenged our thinking on how far away those disciples can be. With the use of online social media, such as Facebook, we have been able to quantify how far our reach has grown.

LIGHT AMIDST DARKNESS: Sandy's Story

Early in the quarantine, I shared one of Pastor Lorne's 2-minute videos about spreading love with others on my personal Facebook page. Sandy, who is typically smiling and brings her light to so many, was having a darker time up in Michigan that day in March. It was much colder up there and she was feeling dark and cold inside too. However, after watching the video of Pastor Lorne, with the green grass, birds chirping, and his message about the importance of spreading love and joy to others, she thought, "This is speaking to me." She felt that moment was incredibly powerful. Coming from a mood of fear and anxiety, she felt sunshine and warmth. She had been praying for a long time for God to open a window because she had been finding the door closed in her faith. She watched the video a second time that morning and made the following comment on my Facebook post: *Thank you for sharing this. I needed his words so much right now. What a comfort he is.* She thanks God for opening the window.

Sandy kept Pastor Lorne's words in her mind as she walked into the police station where she works. She could hear the birds singing and feel the sun shining. She felt more peaceful, less isolated. She met a person at the station as she walked in and feeling that peace and joy in her heart, warmly greeted him. He responded by saying "God, I needed that (her genuine smile)."

Sandy kept watching Pastor Lorne's videos on Facebook and was amazed at the vulnerability she saw him sharing online, reminding us that it is okay to be angry and afraid. She felt like that was a message she was not hearing from many places. Sandy shared some of these comments online:

- *Thank you for sharing this. He is so comforting. Please let him know his words are helping many of us far from those church doors and we greatly appreciate it. Stay safe.*
- *You are truly blessed to have him for a pastor. Many others are silent now when we need them. I pray for all of you including your pastor. He shines the light of hope in the darkness of fear and anxiety.*

Sandy looks forward to our posts and includes them in her daily meditations. She began to 'follow' our Prince of Peace page and shared the videos with her friends. One of those friends happened to be a long-haul truck driver who was one of the few people on the road at the time. She was delivering much needed PPE (face masks) to hospitals along the East Coast. Her friend, not having face masks of her own, was scared as she pulled into Mount Sinai hospital in New York City. However, she said that she was able to face these times, hearing Pastor Lorne's words in her head. "It's okay to be angry. It's okay to be scared." The doctors and nurses wanted to give the drivers face masks to keep them safe, however, it was illegal. They couldn't open the boxes of the goods they had just delivered, so they were ripping up t-shirts to fashion masks for protection.

Sandy's friend has shared Pastor Lorne's videos with her friends, fellow drivers on the road. All across the country, Sandy said, he was holding their hands through all of this. Sandy commented that he and the church have no idea how far his words have travelled and how they have inspired people across the nation.

Sandy has always felt that God has guided her in her life, even from a young age. When she prayed for a window, God opened the door for her. She said, "If we lived in your area, we would love to be part of your church!"

This gets us thinking: why would anyone need to live in this area to be part of the POP community? How can we change our mindset since the church is not the building and it is definitely not only for the people who live near those walls. God has opened the door for Sandy and continues to open the doors for us at POP, too.

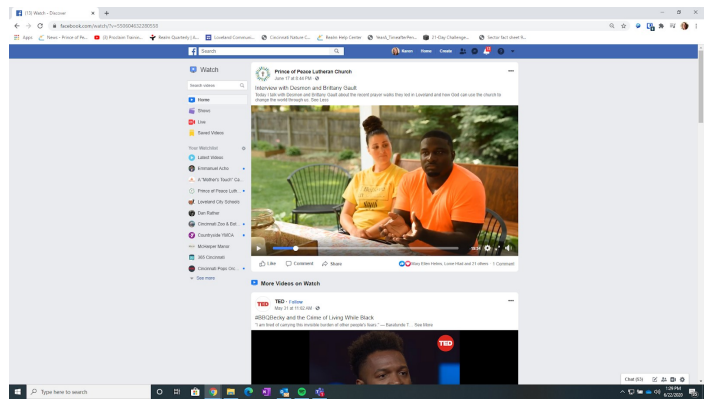
Sandy is so grateful to have found POP from up north in Michigan and will follow us long after COVID is over. She recently shared this on Facebook: *Thank you for this positive message during all that could depress us. Your words remind me to find blessings in some way, in ordinary moments, in each day and those around us. Thank you for such strong leadership. Bless you.*



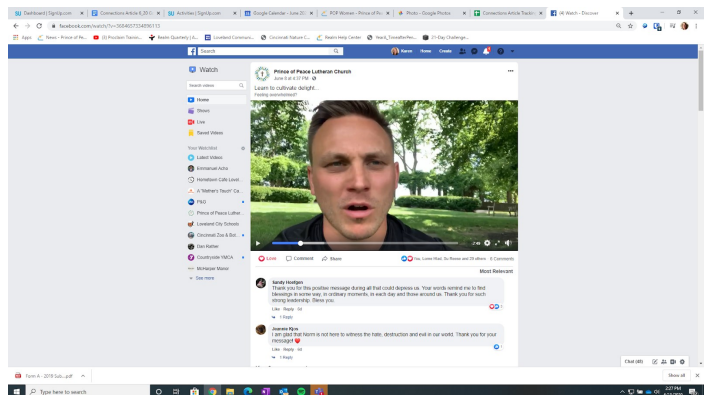
Hi POP friends!

If you had to wear
a t-shirt for a year
with one word on it,
which word would
you choose?

To help share stories with the Facebook community, Pastor Jonathan has been sharing in-depth interviews on Wednesdays. He has interviewed individuals from POP, such as Judy Leamy about Loveland Schools providing care to children during the quarantine, to Jonathan Stufft, who grew up at POP and is now close to graduating and being ordained as a pastor. He has shown us the quirky ‘behind the scenes’ look at how weekly worship videos are edited upstairs in his son Daniel’s bedroom, to more poignant and thought-provoking interviews such as Desmon and Brittany Gault, Loveland residents, who led the community in prayer walks focusing on unity or Janet Jackson, a leader in the Columbus community working to make positive



Pastor Lorne has also started providing a weekly video on Facebook. These are short, personal reflections, providing words of encouragement, hope, and comfort not just to people at POP, but to people around the world. One of those people who found POP through Pastor Lorne's weekly videos is my husband's aunt, Sandy Hoefgen, from Menominee, Michigan. Read more about her personal story on page 17.



God has been hard at work,
using the compost of our lives
to grow amazing new fruit!

OUR ONGOING MINISTRY: A BIBLE STUDY

BY PASTOR TOM STROEH

One of the blessings that has come during the Corona virus pandemic is the reminder of the biblical understanding that the church is not a building but the people of God. Of course, when we were still worshipping in that structure at 101 South Lebanon Road in Loveland, we gathered in order to go out. We would come together for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving around the word and Sacraments, for fellowship with sisters and brothers in Christ, for study of scripture and equipping for ministry in order to go out into God's world to live and love like Jesus.

As God's sent people, in every situation, we are called to ask "What does Christ-like love ask me to do?" (John 15:12; Matthew 22:34-40). There are many ways the Holy Spirit leads us to serve:

1. If needed, be willing to do even the lowliest acts of service (John 12:1-5, 12-15, 34-35). I once knew a woman who volunteered to cut the toenails of the elderly.
2. Being a caring neighbor has many implications (Luke 10:23-31). Could that include wearing a facial cover for our neighbor's sake?
3. Show patience and gentleness, kindness and forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32). This particular time of Covid shutdowns often tests our patience.
4. Let someone (regardless of their color or background) know you care enough to listen to their story, their hopes and heartaches, encouraging and assuring them that they are not alone with their burdens (Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11). In this pandemic it's easy for folks to feel discouraged without a personal, physically present support system.
5. Show hospitality. (An example is Lydia in the Book of Acts 16:11-15.) If having others in our homes is not wise because of the virus, there are other options for hospitality—doing grocery shopping for someone, or cooking for them. ++ Jesus fed the spiritually hungry but also was concerned that those without food were physically nourished (Matthew 15:29-39). Hence, the L.I.F.E. Food Pantry is a vital outreach.
6. Ask how you can respond to injustice. See Micah 6:8 — *"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what do the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?"*
 - a. *Jesus was an advocate for those with little power (Luke 18:1-8). Who are the powerless in your community? What is the history of justice among our minority sisters and brothers? How can we help?*
 - b. *How can we address justice issues through our right to vote and other forms of political engagement?*

If we cannot physically do acts of service, we can intercede for others in prayer (Ephesians 1:15ff; 1 Timothy 2:1ff) and provide monetary support (2 Corinthians 9:7), enabling other "ministers" to feed the hungry, educate and lift up the poor, bring healing to the ill, advocate for justice, etc. As part of the Evangelical Church in America and its many expressions of ministry around the world, as well as ministries like the Haitian Timoun Foundation, we have boundless opportunities to bring the love of Christ to others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT MATTHEW 22:34- 40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

IS THAT JESUS?

BY LUKE McLELLAND



One of the first times I questioned who Jesus was, I sincerely looked at my mother and asked her, “Is that Jesus?” referring to Pastor Tom (one of Pastor Jonathan and Lorne’s predecessors). I thought there was a chance. Needless to say, I, Luke McLelland, was raised at Prince of Peace! VBS, Sunday and Wednesday services, mission trips, Sunday School, youth group events and so much more through Prince of Peace bolstered and guided my faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit worked through these involvements and numerous people at POP to reveal the truth of the Gospel to me. I am forever grateful for this. Around the same time that Prince of Peace was leading me to Jesus, a beautiful girl in North Carolina was also being led to Jesus. I met this amazing woman in the summer of 2016 when we were both serving at an adventure Christian camp in Northern California. Our love story is different depending on who you ask, but Becca and I made it to a mountain top (literally a mountain in North Carolina) and said our vows on June 15, 2019. The week that we got married I quit my corporate job. Following Jesus is an everlasting adventure, and it looks different for different members.

Becca and I stand on common ground of sincerely believing the word in Matthew 13 that explains how the kingdom of God is like a treasure in a field, and it is so valuable that it is worth joyously leaving things to pursue. We spent the first three months of our marriage serving at a ministry back in Northern California, and in six months we will be serving and living in Jinja, Uganda at The Amazima School. We know that Amazima is a fruitful ministry, and we are excited to be a part of it! Amazima exists to see lives transformed, relationships restored, and communities changed through the truth of Jesus Christ.

There are a couple ways that Amazima accomplishes this. One of the ways is through their secondary school for Ugandan teenagers. The Amazima School (TAS) is modeled after the school that Becca went to in North Carolina. There are many connections from Becca’s home community that have served and helped to create TAS. Becca has been to Jinja and seen the work that the Lord is doing there firsthand.

After the international mission was placed on our hearts, Amazima was the first organization that we connected with. We did not have to look further. The Amazima School believes that culture can be dramatically changed through the influence of loving

Following Jesus is an everlasting adventure, and it looks different for different members.



relationships. The most effective way to influence loving relationships is through education and discipleship. In our role as family mentors, we will be responsible for providing 16 single-gender students (ages 12-18) with a secure home on the Amazima campus. Our primary responsibilities are to model a biblical marriage, love, disciple, correct, pray, and spend time with our students. Our commitment is to serve and live in Uganda for two years. We are responsible for fundraising for our two years there. If you feel led to support us, either in prayer or financially, you can give online via online at: <https://rceinternational.givingfuel.com/staff>.

Your prayers are also invaluable to us! You can learn more about Amazima on their website: <https://amazima.org/academics/>.

Becca and I share a heart to serve and live for Jesus. It was not an instantaneous revelation or audible voice that told us to go abroad, rather there was a sweet period of time in our engagement that was full of Kairos (God) moments that confirmed the direction the Lord was leading. We find encouragement in Psalm 37:27 which says "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him" When there is fear or questions about what the future will look like, we are repeatedly led to peace and firm ground after seeking to delight in the Lord, whether that is through worship, prayer, service, time in the Word or another way of connecting with the Lord. Our prayer for you is that you seek the Lord and delight in him as he reveals how you can be a part of his greater purpose!

If you would like to hear more about Amazima or connect with the McLellands, you are welcome to email Luke at luke.mcllelland@gmail.com. They would love to connect with you! ■



CLM (Chemen Lavi Miyò)

BY STEVE WERLIN

Steve Werlin is the Communications and Learning Officer for CLM.

Andrémène Raphaël lives with her three youngest children in Tijedi, a rural neighborhood in southern Boukankare. In 2009, she joined Chemen Lavi Miyò, or CLM, an eighteen-month program designed to help the poorest of Haiti's rural poor to build sustainable livelihoods. A Haitian non-profit, Fonkoze, established the program in 2006 in response to its discovery that the microcredit programs it was using to fight poverty were not able to reach the poorest Haitians. It had just successfully piloted CLM, and was looking for new sources of funding. The search felt urgent.

The Haitian Timoun Foundation, and the network of churches that supports it, were the first to step in. Its founder, Rick Barger, explains, "When [Fonkoze's then director], Anne Hastings, first approached me in 2006 about a pilot initiative to eradicate ultra-poverty for women and their children, we jumped at the opportunity because of our mission to provide life-giving impact for Haiti's poor. We have never looked back."

The women who join the program are poorer than one can easily imagine. They have no wealth to speak of, they eat less than a single meal per day, and they cannot send their children to school. They live in shacks that provide no shelter.

Andrémène was one of 100 women who were able to join the program thanks to HTF's first grant. At the time, she was getting by as a sharecropper. "I had nothing. I didn't have a goat, I didn't have a chicken. My husband was crippled. He couldn't work. All our needs fell on me."

The women spend eighteen months building up assets, business and life skills, and self-confidence. At the end, their progress is evaluated and, if they succeed, as about 96% of them do, they graduate.

The program involves a lot of intertwined elements, but two of the principal ones are a grant of assets that can be used to establish businesses and eighteen months of weekly visits from a case manager, who serves as a coach. Andrémène received goats and the training necessary to manage them. More than ten years later, she and her children still keep some, and Andrémène makes sure that they get attentive care. They are tied in a shady area near her home, and she and her boy feed them several times a day. Also as part of the program, she received some of the materials she needed to build a solid one-room house on a rented plot of land. It was the first dry and secure home that she and her children had ever known.

Her husband died during her last months with CLM. After the funeral expenses, she struggled, depending on support from

her family. In 2012, she took to selling basic groceries, relying on the CLM training she had received, but she couldn't sustain the business. It was her sole source of daily cash, so it carried a heavy burden. "All the little household expenses in a home without a father" were too much.

That left Andrémène without a steady income. She needed a way to keep the children fed and handle other expenses. "Sending the kids to school is expensive. You have to give them something to eat before they leave in the morning, and then something when they get home. And they need 25 gourds every day for a snack. If I try to give them only 15 gourds, they aren't happy."

But during the program's eighteen months Andrémène had learned to search for solutions and to believe in her ability to find them. She found families willing to hire her regularly to do laundry. In Haiti, laundry is hard and time-consuming work, and a family need not be especially wealthy to hire someone for it. Andrémène's clients are in Mibalè, the closest large town, and they hire her for their larger loads. She goes three days per week and can earn from \$18 per week to twice that. It keeps her and her children fed, and allows her to pay for their school.

Sending the children to school is especially important to her. She wants them to graduate from high school and learn a profession. Her oldest boy, Jean Benoit, wants to be a doctor. "He always says that," his mother adds. "He says that if I'm sick he wants to be the one to take care of me."

Andrémène's class was the first group of families to pass through CLM thanks to HTF support. Since then, four more groups of 100 families have had that chance. HTF has been Fonkoze's most reliable partner for the CLM program, generally starting new groups as soon as the old ones are finished.

And it's more than that. Visiting the program regularly with delegations has enabled the HTF to offer CLM staff and the families they serve witness and affirmation. And very importantly, it has enabled HTF's leadership to understand and help with the program's special needs. Whether it's funding the salaries necessary to employ experts in health and community development or paying for and participating in summer camps for the program's children, HTF has shown the willingness and the ability to help. ■

Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM)
or "The Pathway to a Better Life" program
empowers Haiti's poorest women to lift
themselves out of ultra-poverty, with
hope and vision for their futures.



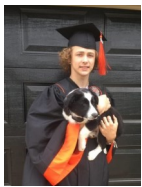
READ THEIR STORIES.

Thousands of women have participated in our CLM program.
Read their stories of triumph and struggle;
get to know some of the strongest, bravest and hardworking women in Haiti!

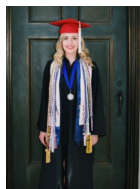
<https://fonkoze.org/client-stories.html>

A LETTER TO 2020 GRADUATES

BY JESSIE DIBB



Noah Nieman



Emily Kabalin



Morgan Heckman



Ben Westley



Chris Kuhn



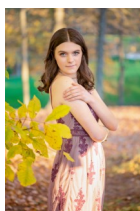
Lydia Ball



Alyssa Weisbrodt



Kayla Matson



Olivia Trombley

Dear 2020 Graduates,

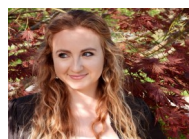
First off, let me say congratulations. You did it! You've finally achieved the first of many huge milestones that you'll have throughout your life. You should be so proud of yourselves.

This year has certainly been a long one, and we're only halfway through. If you had told me (or anyone for that matter) that 2020 would be like this, I would've laughed. But when you look back at everything that's happened in the past 6 months, it's easy to get lost in the whirlwind of the world.

Everything happens for a reason. This year was certainly unexpected, but through the trials and tribulations it's only made you stronger. It's difficult to grasp sometimes when you're frustrated, but you must remember: you have a greater purpose. We have to keep an eye on the bigger picture through all of this. Though it's difficult, we must reach towards our goal: living and loving like Jesus. The world we live in is changing. You are the catalysts who can make this world whatever you want it to be. Go boldly. You have a greater purpose than you realize.

Through education, passion, and new technologies like social media, you have ways that you can make a genuine difference in this world. You can make it a kinder, more beautiful place just by using your voice. God loves each and every one of you. Make sure to keep Him close to your heart as you continue on this journey. Your future is so very bright!

Sincerely,
Jessie Dibb, OSU class of 2020 ■



Manny Dudeck



Dahlia Kressler



Felicity Cook



Aaron Rutz



Natalie Thieme



Katie Napier



Karlis Walsh



Emily Whitaker



Kyra Plaatje



Kemper Ackermann



Christian Maurer



Jared DeVille
Cameron DeVille

Greater PURPOSE

**LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US LOVE, NOT IN WORD OR SPEECH,
BUT IN TRUTH AND ACTION.**

1 JOHN 3:18

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.
Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High;
for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Luke 6:35

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send,
and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I; Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

**IF YOU OFFER YOUR FOOD TO THE HUNGRY AND SATISFY THE NEEDS
OF THE AFFLICTED, THEN YOUR LIGHT SHALL RISE IN THE DARKNESS
AND YOUR GLOOM BE LIKE THE NOONDAY.**

ISAIAH 58:10

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.
Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:9-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:1-11

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

WE CELEBRATE THE NEW SAINTS OF THE CHURCH WHO WERE BAPTIZED AND REMEMBER THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT SINCE ALL SAINTS DAY, NOVEMBER 2019.

BAPTIZED

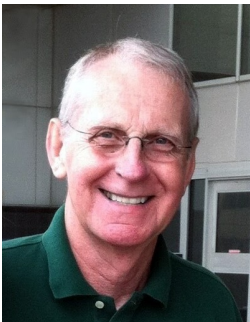
Victor Casique
Grayson Dorton
Logan Evans
Gavin Fronk

Steve Fronk
Abigail Gajramsingh
Lilly Hansel
Gabriel Hensley

Christina Jeranek
Christopher Jeranek
Jane Jeranek
Charlie Keck

Carson Reed
Isaac Reed
Carter Reese
Avery Rohm

IN MEMORIAM



DON JOHNSON

December 27, 1944 - April 20, 2020

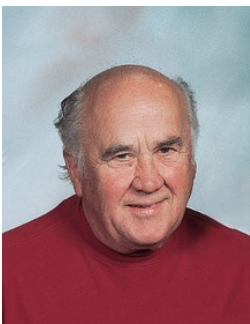
Don Johnson, of Liberty Township, Ohio passed away peacefully at the age of 75. He and his wife, Dottie, married for almost 52 years, joined Prince of Peace in 1998, and were an active part of the POP community together with their daughter, Brigid Young, her husband, Tom, and their daughters, Erica & Hallie. Don grew up in Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy in 1968. He forever will be a Packer and Badger fan. The ministry of beginning a POP monthly worship service at Artis Memory Care, where he was a resident coping with Alzheimer's, would not exist without Don and Dottie leading the way



BONNIE KUTSCHENREUTER

APRIL 22, 1936 - April 25, 2020

Wife of Pete Kutschenreuter of almost 62 years, Bonnie, age 84, loved to learn and discover adventures all through her life whether growing up in the Sierra mountains in California, studying and creating acclaimed art in the Washington DC area, bicycling with her young family across the US, to raising a family here in Ohio (son, Curtis and daughter, Kathleen). She was an exceptionally talented artist, dedicated teacher and passionate naturalist, even pioneering the movement to help create the Loveland Bike Trail and taught at the Cincinnati Nature Center. Above all, she was an exceptional steward of the earth and a loyal companion and caregiver to her family. Bonnie joined Prince of Peace in 1964, not many years after Prince of Peace began. Her impact on the church and civic community has left a positive impact for those to come.



NORM KJOS

April 14, 1938 - March 11, 2020

Norm, wife of Jeannie Kjos, died at the age of 81 just days before the quarantine began for COVID-19. Norm and Jeannie were married in 2001 and joined POP shortly after in 2002. Norm is also survived by his daughter, Kathrin, his son, Andrew, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great grand-child. Norm grew up in North Dakota, served in the Marines for 6 years, and then got his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Northrup University in Los Angeles, CA. He lived in Illinois, New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey working in the chemical industry for 36 years as an engineer, plant manager, and Director of Manufacturing overseeing 7 plants. Norm and Jeannie became very involved as the POP liaisons for Habitat for Humanity from 2010 - 2016, from coordinating volunteers to builds, to being there hands on building homes for others. Norm loved spending time with family and at the Michigan cottage, woodworking, photography, fishing, snow skiing and singing in the church choir. The donation bins in the S. Lebanon entrance were built by Norm years ago.



Prince of Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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