



# *The* Messenger

July 2021

## From Martha

Having a vision is relatively easy for one person. Having a shared vision with 100 people is harder and requires quite a bit of conversation and a smattering of carbohydrates and coffee. Our church has weathered some difficult years, culminated by almost a year and a half of separation. Our church leadership elected to spend the rest of 2021 in conversation, thinking about some of the key questions that form a church's identity: shared beliefs and values; shared goals; shared priorities. Coming to those elements of identity requires dialogue with as many as possible. That is our intent around our Second Sunday's.

We hope, by offering worship outside, that more people feel comfortable to come. We hope that the less formal setting allows for more interaction, more feedback, more chances to hear more voices. We hope that the small group work that follows our Second Sunday worship allows us to get down to the business of re-fashioning our vision for the church. Most faith communities I know are either doing this work or actively avoiding it—there are few in my sphere of knowledge that do not need to attend to this work to one degree or another. We are just doing our work.

One thing that has arisen in many conversations during my 3 years here at Peakland BC is the list of the Four Fragile Freedoms of Baptist Life:

**Bible freedom**—the ability and responsibility to read the Bible and interpret it for ourselves;

**Soul freedom**—the ability and responsibility to walk our own spiritual journey, making our own decisions about when and where and how we live out our faith;

**Church freedom**—the ability and responsibility of each church system to rule itself, to enact its mission in the world as it sees fit, to preach and teach and serve according to the consensus each church system, answering to no outside body or hierarchy;

**Religious freedom**—the ability and responsibility of the church to keep itself separate from any influence by any civil government.

Each of these freedoms involves both a privilege and a responsibility—they do not work without both being present. What does it look like for us to live these values out? What other values matter to us? Where are the points of consensus around what we are doing here together? How the church feeds and nurtures our spirits? How we present ourselves to the world? How are we prepared to share what we know and what we have with others who also need love and safety and welcome?

The vision process has great joy in it, even if we have to acknowledge difficult topics, because the vision process is hopeful—it is a way of speaking to the future and saying to those who will sit in our pews, who will sing from our choir loft, who will go in and out of our doors, twenty, thirty, fifty, one hundred years from now, "We are making things ready for you. We care about you and want the best for you." Others have done this work for us—if it were not for them, we would not have this church. So, we step into the process, honoring the work of those who came before, ready to do our work in service of ourselves, of those who need this church in the future and of God.

## Masks at PBC

In our June meeting, the Congregational Council voted to update our mask policy. We have changed our policy to say that masks are no longer required in our worship service. We do recommend that anyone who is not vaccinated wear a mask, and masks will still be available at the door. We are all grateful to each other for the ways we have worked to keep each other as safe as we possibly could through the pandemic. We are also aware that many in our congregation, especially children, have not been able to get a vaccine, so we continue to encourage respect and caution: asking before hugging or hand-shaking, maintaining distance with those who are unvaccinated, and prioritizing the most vulnerable in our community. Thank you!

## July Events

We are grateful for all that has enabled us to return to in-person worship on Sundays and for Jeff Curcio, who continues to work for PBC as our videographer and video editor, making it possible for people to continue to worship with us online.

Engaging in Worship at Peakland Baptist Church is happening right now in the following ways:

- Online access to worship through Facebook Live, our website, YouTube link, and emailed copies of sermons;
- Sending worship resources and sermons by email and mail to those who do not have internet access;
- Offering space for those who wish to worship in person, with face masks and social distancing on Sunday mornings.

- 2-5 PBC Office closed for July 4th holiday
- 4 Rev. Dwight Mays, proclaimer/Communion, Independence Day
- 11 Second Sunday—9:30 a. m. worship outside
- 14 Bible Study via Zoom
- 18 Regular Worship
- 21 Bible Study via Zoom
- 26 James River Float sign up ends
- 31 James River Float



The **Searchers** Class is currently meeting via Zoom. Contact Parks Snead or Deborah Raessler if you are interested in joining them.

The **Formations** Class continues to meet with social distancing and face masks in our Parlor on Sunday mornings from 9:45am-10:45am, with the exception of Second Sundays, class will not meet on those days.

The **Focus** Class is checking in with each other regularly.

## July Birthdays

- 1 Bob Bailey
- 4 Lynda Hyler
- 6 Ed Lovern
- 8 Harold Templeton
- 9 Barbara Duff
- 9 Georgia Fauber
- 10 Samantha Dempsey
- 10 Cory Rowan Riordan
- 10 Sandy Walton
- 13 Matilda Sloan
- 17 Bundy Potter
- 17 Katie Sale
- 19 Clif Potter
- 20 Kathy Hammitt
- 20 Annie Willman
- 21 Pat Blackburn
- 21 Paden Gararrd
- 22 Susan Allen
- 23 John Osteen
- 25 Conner Kearse
- 26 Emily Sloan
- 27 Knight Garrard
- 28 William Cook
- 29 Betty Ramsey
- 31 Robert Cook

## Bible Study

Our Wednesday morning Bible Study meets at 10:30am each week via Zoom.

The Zoom link is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87635179453?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87635179453?pwd=d0YwQ3JHQU55MlFSaFQ4NXJ0Mm1VQT09)

[pwd=d0YwQ3JHQU55MlFSaFQ4NXJ0Mm1VQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87635179453?pwd=d0YwQ3JHQU55MlFSaFQ4NXJ0Mm1VQT09)

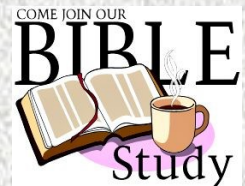
Meeting ID: 876 3517 9453

Passcode: 166070

+1 646 558 8656 US

Feel free to join us!

That link will remain the same through the month of August of 2021. We are looking at the Psalms through the summer and may get to Galatians at some point( we play it by ear). We will not meet on July 6th, August 25th, and September 1st. Otherwise we meet every week.







### **Summer at PBC**

We have a few things back on the table this summer that we haven't had in a while. We hope to be able to celebrate the possibility of being together this summer in several ways:

### **McNeely Room**

Just a reminder that the room is available if you'd like to use it. You can reserve it for your group or family through our church office!

### **Live From the Deck—Open Mike Music/Storytelling/Entertainment at Parsonage—All Ages**

**July 23      August 20**

Chatting and chocolate—two essential elements of life. Available on the deck this summer. We may have music or shared storytelling, we may not. Either way, it's great to be together and you are invited!

### **Mid-Summer Float—July 31<sup>st</sup>—All ages**

We'll work with James River Adventures to have a nice kayak float down the James River. We'll set up transportation and portage for those who have their own kayaks or paddleboards and enjoy a lovely day together on the river! Reservations for this event will be required. Those who don't wish to kayak can enjoy a picnic together at Riverfront Park. **Sign up for this event at [pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org](mailto:pbcoffice@peaklandbc.org) ! Sign ups will end July 26<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Second Sundays**

As one of our leaders in CC said, there's nothing like a little alliteration to get your attention, right? Beginning in June, we will introduce the Vision Process that our Congregational Council has proposed with **Second Sundays (July 11, August 8)**, which will look like this:

9:30am—Outdoor Worship in Memorial Garden Parking Lot (tents and chairs provided)

10:15—Intro Exercise and the Day's Goals

10:40—11:15—Small Group conversations

11:15-11:30—Large Group Listening and Homework

We will have light snacks and drinks available each Sunday and will use tents and our facility for small group conversations. Tablets and Computers will be made available for Zoom participation in both large and small groups.

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

**JULY 11**

**AUGUST 8**

# SOLD

## **Sale of Our Bus**

During this past winter, the Finance Team proposed to our Congregational Council that we sell our church bus for several reasons:

- The bus went largely unused, even before the pandemic, which meant that the batteries would run down and have to be charged or replaced (very expensive);

- The bus required the chair of Facilities to spend an inordinate amount of time dealing with issues, such as the batteries and upkeep (licensing, inspections);

- The costs associated with the annual upkeep of the bus were disproportionate to its use to our church people.

During the spring, Jim Ray (Chair of Facilities) had the following done or did them himself:

- repaired the door

- replaced the batteries

- washed and cleaned the bus

- advertised the bus for sale

This past month, a buyer was found for the bus at a price of \$16,010—the couple from Richmond are starting a food truck for fresh seafood and were very excited to acquire the bus. Jim Ray and Nicole Zulauf made sure they could inspect the bus and Amy Ray took care of title transfer and money handling.

Our bus moves on to serve somewhere new and we are relieved of one item that we no longer need. We're grateful to everyone involved in making this transfer happen!

## **Report from Interfaith Outreach Association**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, IOA held its annual meeting to report on their past year. You may not be aware of their work this past year, but IOA became the hub for Central Virginia for the Rent Relief Program, going from an organization with two full-time and one part-time staff to one with ten people working long shifts every day to answer as many as 100 calls per day. In 2020, IOA served:

- 1595 Households with rent and utilities, sometimes multiples times;

- 4238 People in those households, of which 2011 were children.

We supported IOA in 2020 by:

- donation from our annual Missions Budget;

- fundraising through our Moving for Good program;

- volunteer time—your pastor represented you by helping with phone calls on several occasions; prayers for IOA.

IOA expressed gratitude for all the many faith organizations and other people who helped them in their work; we are all very grateful to have such a wonderful organization in this city helping people stay housed and to live full, dignified lives.

