

THE HERALD

August 2020

A Pandemic of Faith

Have you been scared since Covid seems to be conquering the nation? I have. Well, at least mildly alarmed.

Mostly I have been resting in faith, confident....that 'this too shall pass'.That we would do what needed done in order to stop the spread of this pandemic. But then I have watched with growing concern about how silly and selfish we've been. It - is....alarming! I confess it!

Still and all, I am sure we will get through this. BUT....it is looking more and more....not without some major distress. And disagreement, conflict, and anguish. And yes, grief! It is looking as if many Americans think that if they don't think it exists then we don't have to do anything about it. It is reality tv at its worst; a nation headed for dystopian history, the dust and viral been of Omega, dying not with a shout but a whimper.

I am presuming that most of you know me well enough to know I am an optimist by nature. I believe in and preach a bold faith! And I will still. But what can you do when the crowds around you are living Kipling's poem: "if you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs'then.... then..... Then what?

Here's the truth. Heck, make that Truth!

- I have lived a good life.
- God has been good to me, blessed me abundantly.
- If I die (I'd rather not die now; I'd really rather live longer and enjoy God's benefits but if...) then I will go 'content into the arms of my Maker.
- Until then, all I can do is be faithful. ALL I can do.....is keep on keeping on in the Way of the Lord.

What about you, beloved? How are you doing? How are your spirits? I care! I care profoundly how you are faring through this strange, strange season. When it seems almost every other nation on earth has gotten hold of this thing but we, by contrast, seem to have given it every chance to get hold of us....where are you turning right now....this day....for faith? A foundation that will hold you in all times and in all ways?

It kills me (makes my heart ache!) when I think of poor folks who were already struggling. Now there is even less money to put food on the table. Or pay rent. How can we as a church of compassion be there for the 'least of these'? And how do we make this more than just words with empty promise?

As for me and my house, we will keep the faith. We will support the saints and be there for those who are vulnerable.

And who knows (God knows!) we will come out the other side of this with a faith tried and tested....and shining, like the strongest steel tempered in the hottest fire.

In God's grip,

Jeff

.....and sincerely, email me and let me know how you are doing. Or call!



AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

02 – Bruce Snyder
 04 – Brian Sexton
 05 – Kay Traudt
 07 – Alan Shuman
 09 – Eunice Sintek
 11 – Scott Minks
 16 – Laurel Helvie
 17 – Freddie Bonnett
 17 – Dean Smith
 18 – Bill Bahr
 19 – Matthew Crouch
 19 – Kate Singaas
 20 – Ilah Harmon
 24 – Enrique Ramirez
 24 – Finn Singaas
 28 – Marilyn McDonald
 31 – Danny Broeder



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

01 – Jeff and Patty Wahlgren

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.



HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Anyone may join or renew their membership in Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) is made to our endowment fund.

WILDFLOWERS

We still have wildflower seeds available for you to use to encourage bees and butterflies to visit their gardens or yards. We have "envelopes" of a Midwest Wildflower Mix available at the church. You can stop by the church, give Karen Griffin Sieber a call (402-470-3669) or send an email to karensieber@live.com. Arrangements can then be made to deliver or mail the seeds.

The Midwest Wildflower Mix includes annual and perennials to provide color throughout the growing season and contains both native and non-native species.

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

Don't forget your Fair Trade products during this time of virtual worship! Tea, coffee, oil and/or chocolates are available for pick-up or delivery! Please call your order to either Karen Griffin Sieber (402-470-3669) or Pat Zink (402 560-0917). We will either deliver to your home or arrange a time for pick-up from the church office.

The following products are available:

- Teas (\$2.50/box): Mint Green, English Breakfast, Irish Breakfast, Peppermint, Green tea with Ginger, Earl Grey, Chamomile, Chai
- Coffees: French Vanilla, Bright Day Brew, Toffee Caramel, Breakfast Blend, Love Buzz, French Roast (price varies \$6.50 - \$7.50)
- Chocolate bars: Milk chocolate or Dark chocolate minis (5/\$1), Large bars (\$2.50) – Dark Choc Almond, Dark Choc Caramel

HERITAGE SUMMER MISSION

During this time of social restrictions, the Mission Committee would like to encourage everyone to reach out to help others this summer. It can be as simple as a phone call or note to a friend, family member or a church member. Other ideas are participating in a virtual church service, picking up trash in your neighborhood, donating to a non-profit of your choice, donating non-perishable food items, or any other ideas that you might have!

We would also like to encourage giving to:

- School supplies for Randolph Elementary School -- Take advantage of the back-to-school sales for the following items: #2 pencils, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, spiral notebooks (wide or college ruled), loose leaf paper, yellow highlighters – we will accept donations through September!
- Please continue to save your empty pill bottles – we will add those collected at Heritage with others from our Presbytery to be sent to developing countries to be used instead of paper scraps!

CROP WALK

The 2020 CROP Walk is going virtual! This means that either individuals, families or church members can walk during a two-week time frame in October. Stay tuned for additional information!

GIFTS INVENTORY

As the Pastor Nominating Committee works through the hiring process the fact that our Pastor position is part-time has been a topic of discussion on several occasions. While a search for a part-time pastor doesn't attract as many candidates and typically takes a bit longer, PNC has met with Session and both committees are dedicated to finding a part-time pastor to serve our church. To better prepare our congregation for a future with a permanent part-time pastor Session will be undertaking a Gifts Inventory for our congregation. The information gathered by the inventory will be valuable to a new pastor in quickly identifying the gifts of church members and will be a valuable tool as our church moves forward. Session is currently working on the assessment document and it will be shared when completed.

Candice Minks, Clerk of Session

Ron Miller, PNC Chair



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's time for VBS-at home edition! Vacation Bible School is NOT cancelled, it's just a little bit different. Below you will find a link to the Bolt Parent Portal, password **LETSBOLT**. Bolt it designed for you to complete at home with your family. There are three days worth of lessons, games and activities to enjoy together!

Please reach out if you have questions or need materials. We would love to see photos or hear how things are going at home...have fun!

<https://www.gocurriculum.com/bolt-family-portal>

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Heritage Presbyterian Church

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www.HeritagePres.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

August 25, 2020

Items received after this
date may not be included!

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 Lincoln, NE 68510
 402-477-3401
pastorheritagepc@gmail.com

AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 10:30 AM Virtual Worship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:30 AM Virtual Worship	10	11 6:30 PM Adult Faith Study via Zoom	12	13	14	15
16 10:30 AM Virtual Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:30 AM Virtual Worship	24	25 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Please refer to the online calendar for updated/changed events.