

The Spire

December 2018

The Pastor's Moment...

Dear Park Place family and friends,

By the time you read your December Spire some of you will have already sent your Christmas cards, snail mail or electronic – some of you will have started your Christmas shopping – and some of you will have finished your shopping. Others will still be undecided regarding the perfect gift for each person on their list. Every day they'll wake up and say, "I've got to start my Christmas shopping." Unfortunately the days may slowly slip by as they wait for the sought after inspiration to choose that perfect gift.

Sometimes the perfect gift isn't what the individual wants, but rather something we see that seems perfect for them. It may be something they never even realized they needed or wanted. The perfect gift is not always something available at the store. The perfect gift may be a kind word, a hug, running an errand for someone, taking them to the store or an appointment – or maybe just listening. Finding the perfect gift, takes time. Selecting the perfect gift takes time and requires each of us to know something about the recipient of our gift. Giving the perfect gift requires setting aside time to be with someone we care about. It means sacrificing our own needs and plans to offer not only a gift, but a portion of ourselves.

Many years ago God looked at us and saw exactly what we needed. He took the time to get to know us. He selected a gift that we didn't even realize we needed. Then God offered us the perfect gift - the gift of life, the gift of forgiveness, the gift of salvation; this perfect gift required our heavenly Father to sacrifice everything. Then he wrapped the gift in a beautiful package, a tiny package, a baby born in Bethlehem.

Our December schedule is hectic, as we send cards and race through malls in search of the perfect gift, as we learn anthems for special services, as we plan family gatherings and events at church. As Christmas approaches we may even start to panic, as we race against the clock. Please, make sure you take some time to slow down – to listen for God's still small voice telling you "to rest in me." And as you are resting, consider and give thanks again that our loving heavenly Father, selected the perfect gift for each of us.

Please join us at the different services and events planned at Park Place, as we come together as a church family to remember God's perfect gift to us - the baby born in Bethlehem.

May God continue to richly bless each of you and your families.
In Christ's love and mine,

Pastor Bill





November Worship Assisting

Greeters & Ushers: Shirley Harris & Ginny Platt; George & Lois Gernier; Stephanie & Norah Gray; George & Lois Gernier

Lay Readers: Cathy Shute; Darlene McMillan; Stephanie Gray; Kristine Gervais

Coffee Hour Hosts: Wayne Patenaude; Darlene McMillan; Stephanie Gray; Ginny Platt

Coffee Hour needs hosts for December. If you'd like to host a Sunday, please fill out the sign-up sheet downstairs in the hall. Thank you!



Advent Worship Schedule

Worship begins at 10 a.m. each Sunday Morning!

December 2: Holy Communion Worship – 10 a.m./ Pastor Wayne leading–Deacons: Stephanie Gray & Terry May Neves / Coffee Hour 11 a.m./ Singing at The Holiday Retirement Home singing 2 p.m. All are welcome!

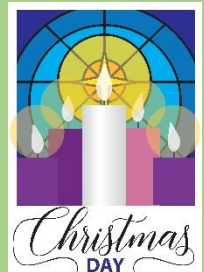
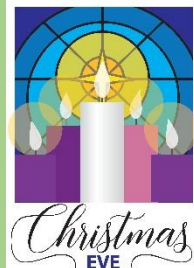
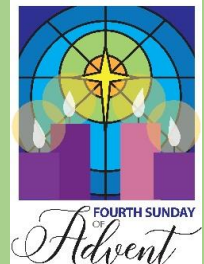
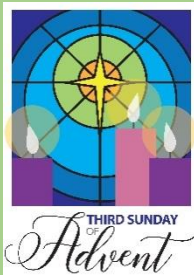
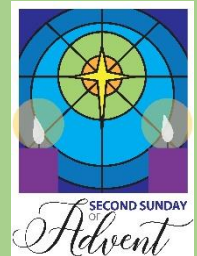
December 9: Worship- 10 a.m./ Pastor Bill leading/ Coffee Hour 11 a.m./ Sinai Church 1-3 p.m. / Singing at The Village @ Waterman Lake Retirement Home singing 2 p.m. All are welcome!

December 16: Worship 10 a.m./ Pastor Wayne /Coffee Hour 11a.m. / Prayer Shawl Ministry 2-3:30 p.m./Sinai Church 1-3 p.m.

December 23: Worship – 10 a.m./ Pastor Bill leading/ Coffee Hour 11 a.m./ Sinai Church 1-3 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:45 p.m. Join us for our Christmas Pageant with our wonderful Chancel Choir bringing the beauty of Christ's birth through Anthems & Hymns.

December 25: Christmas Day Worship 10 a.m. in the Chapel with Pastor Bill leading.



December 30: Worship 10 a.m. / Pastor Wayne/ Coffee Hour 11 a.m./ Sinai Church 1-3 p.m. / Praise & Worship 6 p.m. featuring our Chancel & Hand-bell Choir.

Our Christian Education/ Sunday School News!

If you'd like to enroll your child(ren) in our class, please speak with Kristine Gervais.



Bible Study News

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who participated in the recent Bible Study. We had 16 people who met faithfully every Monday evening from 6:00 – 7:00 as we traveled through Israel with teacher Ray Vander Laan. The study was entitled “Promised Land”, which is part of the “That the World May Know” curriculum. Our lessons started with an understanding of God’s plan and purpose for placing his people at “The Crossroads.” We crossed the swollen Jordan River on dry land to enter the Promised Land, and no sooner were we across the river than our faith was tested at the city of Jericho. We discussed Samson and the importance of being a good witness in the world, and finally, our last lesson was about a young shepherd boy named David, and his confrontation with a giant named Goliath.

I am so grateful for everyone’s participation in the class and their willingness to come prepared, having done the reading before class. In many ways each member of this class is their own “standing stone.” For those of you who don’t understand what that means, please reach out to someone from the class and ask them to explain what a “standing stone” is.

Our next Bible Study will begin immediately following Easter. It will be a six-week study discussing the various “Feasts” celebrated by the Hebrew nation, as explained in the Old Testament. Once again we will have a DVD to guide us, and I believe we will all be surprised by the manner in which each feast portrays and follows the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please come and join us on the next journey. More details regarding the next Bible Study will be shared as we get closer to the dates.

Thank you again to those who participated.

In Christ’s love and mine,

Pastor Bill



Dear Members & Friends of Park Place Church,
Fall flew by and we are now entering December, another busy month at Park Place Church. We’ll kick off the month with a Christmas Cabaret on Saturday, December 1st and end with Praise and Worship on December 30th. In between is the celebration of the birth of Christ which brings out the best in all of us. The special services on

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be here before we know it. I would like to wish everyone in this special family a safe, healthy and happy Christmas season.

With special blessings,
Shirley

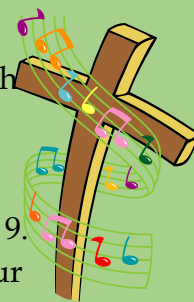


Park Place Congregational UCC Missions
Please remember All are welcome to join any activity or
just drop in to see what is going on!

Let's Sing!

We will be going to The Holiday Retirement Home in Manville, RI, and sing to/with the residents for about an hour on December 2. Our visits are the first Sunday of each month to make planning easier. We'd love to have you join us.

We will be visiting The Village at Waterman Lake in Greenville, RI on December 9. We would love to have you come and join us to bring music to the residents. Our visits are usually on the second Sunday of each month to make planning easier. *Both places are great outreaches to some wonderful people! All are welcome!*



Stop by the Thrift Shop

Come stop by on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Come see what new looks you can add to your wardrobe! Great clothes to choose from for the young kids to teens and adults!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to add to the lives of all who receive them; so much so that we are running very low on our wonderful prayer shawls! **Prayer Shawls continue to be greatly needed!** Our meetings are every 3rd Sunday of the month from

2-3:30 p.m. Hope to see you then! Please continue to make shawls. Prayer shawls should be 25-30 inches wide and 70 inches in length. See you on December 16!

Sympathy to A Family Member



Sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of William (Bill) Pacelt who entered into the Kingdom of Heaven on November 13, 2018. May the Lord welcome him with open arms and comfort his family and friends during this most difficult time. It is Bill's wishes that donations be made in his name to Park Place Congregational Church, 71 Park Place, Pawtucket, RI 02860 or Hope Hospice and Palliative Care RI,

1085 North Main St. Providence, RI 02904.

Prayers & Concerns for Our Family

Please keep these people in your daily prayers: Jane & Bob Cash; Jean; Andrea; Steven; Elaine; Austen Lepper Carol, John; Cindy offers Thanks for our secret angels; Carlene; Karen B; Lisa Lyon; Richard Deblois, Judy O; Peter-emotional turmoil; Kathy Morrisette; Anna; Brenda; Linda C.; Stacia; Colin Walker;



Bobby Nicholson; Charlie; Betsy; Paul; Moe; Shelia Clough; Jackie Gardikis; Josh Barber; Paul; Melanie; Gabriella; Karen; Libby; Beth Fournier; Kenny; John Peter; Michael; Virginia; Steve; Alice; Deb C; Emily; Debbie Coury; Ann-Marie; Terry; Irene Marteno- cancer; Phyllis; Joyce - (cancer); Lauren & Heather; Frank; Cory; Joanne; Katherine; Irene; Bev; Jim; Ethel; Grace; Tom; Gregg; Peter; Nancy; Eric Green; Debbie Ziegenhagen; Cathleen; Claudia Berube; Trevor Bynoe; Dianne; Bob; Sherry; Terry; All people fighting cancer.

Please continue prayers for

... for the victims of the recent shootings at the Synagogue, plane crash in Indonesia, mail bomb threats and the school shooting.

... for the victims and families of domestic abuse.

... all those still impacted by all natural disasters including the wild fires in California.

... the victims of all the turmoil worldwide. May the Lord bring Peace to this world.

... our service men and women, and veterans both old and young who have served our country with honor and pride.

Continued prayers for our homebound family members and friends: Rita Clough; Carolyn Chirnside; Gloria Sasnett; Madeline Shay; Barbara; & friends at the Holiday Retirement Home and The Village at Waterman Lake.

December Memorial & Honorary Altar Flowers

December 2: The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Candy Stewart in a loving memory of her parents Robert & Cam Horton.

December 9: The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Pastor Bill & Darlene McMillan in loving memory of his parents, Bill & Margaret McMillan.

December 16: The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Chris Frappier and Stephanie Gray in loving memory of Claire Fontaine.

December 23: The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Ginny in honor of her Park Place Church Family.

December 24: The large white poinsettia on the Altar is given to the Glory of God by the Larson Family in loving memory of Stephen's Aunt, Pricilla Taylor.

Our Christmas Poinsettia Memorials (see insert of in the bulletins and the January Spire.)

December 30: The memory of all those who have gone to be with God and in honor of all of us who are here to love and encourage each other to continue to use the talents He has given us to bring Peace to the New Year.

(Note: Thank you for your donations of the beautiful altar flowers each week, your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please remember that payment of \$35.00 for the altar flowers is due during that month. Thank you for your attention.)



The Perfect Gift

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said, “Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction.” At Christmas we celebrate God coming to earth to look outward with us in the same direction, from our perspective and experience.

Jesus was an ordinary person: He learned to talk and walk like any toddler, learned a trade from his father and acquired the habits of faith from his family. In adulthood, Jesus

experienced life as we all do: the challenge of hard work, grief at a loved one’s death, heartache over oppression and the world’s great needs — but also joy in celebration, fellowship with neighbors and deep friendship.

God personally knows our every experience, emotion and need — because Jesus, while fully divine, lived as a full human being. He has gazed at the world, life and even death from our direction, giving us the perfect Christmas gift: love.