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Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Summer 2017

'Selah' and Summer

*"You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah." (Psalm 32:7)*

This past Sunday a member of the church stopped me and asked: "I have a question. I've been reading my Bible and I've noticed the word 'Selah' is often used in the Psalms. What does that word - Selah - mean?" First, let me just say to you, dear reader, that every Pastor loves a conversation that begin with words: "I've been reading my Bible and..." But as to that particular question, here was my answer; I said...

"That's a really great question! And the answer is we really don't know what the word 'Selah' means! Biblical scholars think it was an ancient Hebrew musical term that meant 'interlude.' The Book of Psalms was the original hymnbook for the people of God, and the Psalms were meant to be sung in worship. What we think is that every time the word 'Selah' appears in the Psalms, it was meant to instruct the musicians to 'play an instrumental interlude at that moment, so that the worshipers would have an opportunity to pause and reflect on what they just heard.'"

So now you all can impress all your friends and neighbors with that bit of biblical trivia! But it got me to thinking about something that is not trivial, which is: "We all need to find *times of 'Selah'* in our regular routines. We need to find the time - we need to *make* time - to pause and reflect on what is going on with us, and within us, and what we hear God saying to us in the midst of it all. Life can be so busy, so rushed, so full, that we often feel were doing all we can just to keep up! We need times of 'Selah' in our lives, so we can catch our breath, and dare to ask ourselves: "What's the message in this for me? How is God present in and through this experience? And what is it God is trying to speak to my soul right now...that is if I can slow down enough to truly listen?" *Selah.*

Summer is a good time for this. For many of us -- and for us here in the church -- things tend to slow down just a little bit in the summer months. It's a time for us all to get out of our routines, and have some new experiences, and perhaps just to play a little bit! In this newsletter you will read about all sorts of fun activities and opportunities: *Worship in the Park, Picnics and Pool Parties, a "Service" Sunday (instead of a Sunday Service), Boat Trips and Beach Vespers!* We don't offer all this just to pile more onto your already full plates, but simply as a variety of opportunity for all us to relax, reflect, and be restored!

Selah

-Pastor Bob

OUR MISSION

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church is a worshipping community that, through the love of God in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, uncovers the spiritual gifts of believers, equipping and sending them into the world to share God's love.

Based on the four New Testament Marks of the Church, we are guided to:
Worship, Connect, Grow & Serve

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For more information

on the ministries of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, or to find out how you can serve, please visit our website, contact the church office or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

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Summer brings us an amazing number of intergenerational experiences to play and worship as a family of faith. We hope you are able to join us for some or all of our planned events.

June 4, 2017: End-of-the-Year Party: After church, the children of Peace Memorial will celebrate the end of the choir year with a pool party at the Gagliardi home. Their address is 3266 Sandy Ridge Drive, Clearwater. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served. Bring a side dish if you want. Please RSVP to Alicia Gagliardi at 919-601-1239.

June 11, 2017: Lunch Bunch: Join us for an informal lunch outing following worship.

July 16, 2017: It's the dog days of summer so our entire church family is invited to a Splash Party at the Highland Recreation Center in Largo for an evening of splash fun from 5-7 pm. This family friendly mini-waterpark provides a wide variety of fun play experiences for all ages.

- 214 foot corkscrew water slide (48 inch height restriction enforced)
- 3-story speed slide (48 inch height restriction enforced)
- Zero depth area with play structure and sprays
- Double slide suitable for all ages (Must be able to swim without a life jacket.)
- Water basketball and volleyball

Sign up in the office. Space is limited to 50 participants. Deli sandwiches are provided. Please sign up to bring a side dish/dessert. Cost is \$10 per person with a family maximum of \$30.00.



July 17-21, 2017: Cedarkirk comes to Peace Memorial. Children who have completed grades K-5 will enjoy this unique ministry that blends classic camp activities and faith-building experiences. They will enjoy the

outdoors with team building activities, water games and nature explorations. Through daily worship, daily meditations and games, the children will connect with God. It is a week where kids can be kids and experience the magic of Cedarkirk! Cost is \$70 for 1 camper, \$100 for 2 campers, \$115 for 3 campers. Limited number of scholarships are available. More information is available, including curriculum and activity schedules at www.peacememorial.org. Sign-up is available in the church office or you may download the signup forms on the website at www.peacememorial.org.

July 23, 2017: Children's Sunday in worship. Singing by the children who attended camp, kick-off for our annual school supply drive for local children in need and the opportunity to learn about Pack-a-Sack for children living with food insecurity.

July 30, 2017: Join us Sunday, July 30th for our first annual "Worship in the Park!" We will be meet at the beautiful John S. Taylor Park in Largo (located 15 minutes from the church - right down Fort Harrison Ave, and right on 8th Ave., Largo). We have reserved a large pavilion near a children's playground, beginning around 10:00 a.m. Worship will begin at our regular 10:30 a.m. time. Following worship, we will have a

CONCERT SERIES CONTINUED

Oct. 8 : "Viola and Piano" We open our season series with a classical concert featuring the viola and piano. With Michael Klotz on viola and Grigorios Zamparas on piano, we will be treated to classics by Beethoven and Rachmaninoff and in celebration of Columbus Day, some offerings from Latin composers too.

Nov. 12: "A Jazz Tribute to Veterans" Just in time for Veterans Day, the All Downing All-stars with featured vocalist Synia Carroll will get our toes tapping. The Suncoast Jazz Classic (Nov. 18-20) assisted Peace in booking this band and concert attendees will be offered discounts for the fest on Clearwater Beach. For more info visit www.suncoastjazzclassic.com.

Dec. 10 : "Holiday Magic"

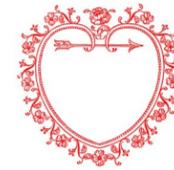
To liven your holiday mood, we will bring you the beautiful voices of singers from the St. Pete Opera Company. The program will feature seasonal classics, carols and popular holiday favorites. In addition there will be highlights from the company's coming production of Mozart's delightful "Magic Flute".



Jan. 14: "Gypsy Serenade" The popular the Con Brio String Quartet returns to us from Boca Raton, this time joined by Pianist Sheng-Yuan Kuan. With selections by Brahms, Dohnanyi, and Liszt, gypsy dances and serenades will be in the air.

Feb. 11: My "Jazzy Valentine"

New to our series, the remarkable Peter & Will Anderson Trio (clarinet, sax and guitar) will delight you with jazzy renditions of your favorite romantic tunes from the Great American Songbook. Selections by Gershwin, Cole Porter and much more.



Mar. 11: "The Sister Act: Pipes and Viola"

As we enter Spring, sisters Cathy and Carol Rodland will bring us an exciting program featuring viola and pipe organ. Peace Memorial's fine Casavant pipe organ will be on full display, combining with the soaring strings of the viola. Their diverse selections will include classics as well as lovely hymn and pop arrangements by composers such as Bach, Brahms, Bruch and Cole Porter.



WORSHIP NEWS CONTINUED



Summer Choir

Wish you could sing in the choir, but can't make it to rehearsals? Here's your chance! This summer we will have Summer Choir on the third Sunday of the month: July 16 and August 20. Come to the choir loft at 9:30 a.m. and learn an easy anthem. Then you will sing it, and lead the hymns for the service. If you can read music, it will be even easier. A most enjoyable way to serve your church! Call Carol Alexander at the church if you have any questions.

Children's Quiet Area

During Sunday morning service, we offer a children's quiet area where children and their parents may sit with some quiet activities appropriate for a time of worship. We ask that parents join their children so they may experience worship together and help the children learn how to manage their fabulous energy in a manner that both assists them in becoming more mature worship participants and allows others to take part in the service in a manner they enjoy.



2017-2018 CONCERT SERIES

Concert Series concluded another successful season on March 12th. We finished with a bang, as teenage pianist Noah Waddell wowed us with his virtuosic playing and his exuberant personality. We covered the map from jazz to classics and from gospel to pipe organ. A big thank you to the many people who help in this important church outreach effort.



Bonus Concert - July 16 at 2 PM, the Peace Concert Series hosts an hour long, summer bonus concert featuring rising stars in the world of piano performance. All these young artists are participants in the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival taking place at USF. The festival brings in 38 promising stars from 24 countries for intensive training to advance their performance skills. Peace is pleased to be a host site for one of their Ambassadors Concerts. We will hear 3-4 young stars and hope for a return appearance by teenage phenom Noah Waddell who wowed us back in March.



Potluck Luncheon - so bring a side dish or dessert to share! Burgers and hotdogs will be provided. Then, we invite people to stay as long as they want and enjoy the park amenities; there is a walking trail, disc golf course, fishing, playgrounds, a ball field, and more! Bring a lawn chair, a fishing pole, something to share and enjoy the beauty of nature and the fellowship of friends! *Note: Worship will be held at the Church AND at the Park that day at 10:30 a.m. Please alert the church office if you need transportation to the park.*

August 6, 2017: Blessing of the Backpacks (and our kids as they prepare for a new school year) and the school supplies gathered for Ponce de Leon School.



August 13, 2017: Are you looking for a good excuse to wear your tacky tropical shirt to worship? Following worship, join your Peace

family for a luncheon cruise on the Calypso Queen. Boarding at 1:00 pm from the Clearwater Marina, this will be a fabulous opportunity for food, fun and fellowship! The Calypso Queen departs at 1:30 pm for a 1 1/2-2 hour cruise with sightseeing narration by the captain. This tropical themed cruise offers a delicious island style luncheon buffet. Complimentary beer, wine, rum punch and soft drinks with full bar service and tropical frozen drinks also available. Register in the church office. Space is limited. \$30.00/adults & \$15/children (3-10 yrs) Children 2 and under are free, but must be named on the guest list.

August 27, 2017: Summer wrap-up party with worship on Sand Key beach



I am with you always—Mt 28:20

Traveling with Jesus: Flat Jesus. In a nod to the children's book, *Flat Stanley*, where the main character discovers the advantages of being flat in that he can travel to places he's

never been before. All Peace members are invited to decorate their own unique picture of Jesus and take him with you as you vacation far away or stay close to home. Snap photos of Jesus hanging out with you in the library, on the beach, in the car, wherever you find yourself and send them to Pastor Dawn at dhaeger@peacememorial.org. Send a couple of sentences as well describing the adventure you are having with Jesus. Look to our Peace Memorial and Peace Family Facebook pages to see where Jesus' travels will take him. Templates for Flat Jesus are available on-line at the Peace Memorial website or at the church.



Save the Date: September 1-2, 2017: Family Retreat at Cedarkirk. All ages are welcome for the Peace Family Retreat at Cedarkirk. Join us from 6:00 pm Friday through 5:00 pm Saturday. Opportunities to relax with friends, hike, swim and zip-line. Meals and air conditioned lodging are included. \$65/adult; \$50/youth; \$195 max family rate.



This is an open letter to our community, We're a pretty fun crew. We're a mix of 8 different ages, 20 different neighborhoods, 13 different schools; we play over 10 different sports, 8 different instruments, and have a ton of hobbies. Right now there are around 40 of us in total! This makes our group special. We like that we're different, and love learning about our spiritual gifts!

Mostly, we meet on Wednesday nights from 6pm-8pm. We start with food. Usually someone in our church community brings dinner for all of us. It's pretty great, and we're really thankful for that. We like to play games. A lot of games. We love learning new group games inside and outside, team building games to strengthen our relationships, and games that connect to our faith lessons. We love growing and connecting with one another. We do this thing called highs and lows at the beginning of youth. We all go around, one by one, and talk about our lowest point of the week, and then end it with our high. Most of the time our highest point is coming to youth! Our lessons are pretty great too. They're always exactly what we need. The lessons challenge us, make us feel love, and teach us things about ourselves, each other and God. We support our group in hope, faith, prayer and constant love. We're accepting, and make each other feel comfortable about our true selves.

We say that we're a pretty good mix of silly and serious!

The last Friday of every month we get together for a game, movie, or activity night! This summer we will go to the beach a lot, since it's so close! We go on retreats in the fall and spring, and youth conferences in the summer! We love Cedarkirk, which is our local camp and conference center we go to a few times a year and we've had some amazing experiences there so far. This summer we are also going to Montreat, in North Carolina for a youth conference with almost 1000 Christian youth. We're also hanging out with the rest of the peace family on Sunday mornings at 10:30, and regularly participating in church events year round.

You can see all of our lessons, youth nights, Sunday mornings, dates, times, and excursions on our Instagram page @peaceyouth

If you're interested in our group or want to know how you can serve, contact Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth Ministries at Rbradford@peacememorial.org. We're one big family, but there's always more room. Come check us out!

Love,

Peace Youth

Rosalie Bradford, Youth Director

Memorial Day Hymn-Sing: Memorial Day Sunday is a special day at Peace Memorial. After all, it was on May 31, 1891 (Memorial Day weekend) that seventeen persons meet for worship and agreed to become the charter members of our predecessor congregation - then called the Clearwater Presbyterian Church! [Then in 1918, the church called a new pastor - the Rev. Dr. David Dunseith - who had previously been a chaplain during World War 1. Shortly after his arrival, Dr. Dunseith began to speak of building a "Memorial to Peace" - to honor those who fought and died for the cause of world peace, and to Jesus Christ- the Prince of Peace. The newly-built "pink church" was renamed "Peace Memorial" in 1924.] This Memorial Day we will remember our roots by singing songs of faith that celebrate our heritage, and which recall our church's continuing prayer for peace in our world.

Pentecost Sunday - June 4th

We celebrate the birthday of The Church Pentecost Sunday! It was on this day, according to the Book of Acts, that the Holy Spirit descended upon the followers of Jesus, creating the Church and empowering its mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all the world! Pastor Dawn will be preaching, and everyone is encouraged to wear red—the color of the day! What's a birthday without cake? Join us in Roebbling Hall after worship to continue the birthday celebration.



Father's Day of Service

Father's Day (Sunday, June 18th) will be a little different this year: Instead of our traditional Sunday Service, we will have a "Service Sunday!" Here's the plan: we will gather for a very brief (20 minutes max) worship service in the sanctuary at our regular 10:30 a.m. time. But from there everyone will be encouraged to help with the service project of your

choice! We will have several options available that day - some will be here on site, others will be in the neighborhood. You'll be able to pick the one that interests you most. A list of projects will be available soon. Each service project should take about an hour-or-so to complete. Join us on June 18th for a time of "worshipful work!"

Summer Sermon Series

Join us this summer for our sermon series "Wrestling with God: Lessons Learned from the Life of Jacob." Why Jacob? Because he is one of the most compelling and complex figures in all the Bible! The grandson of Abraham and Sarah, son of Isaac and Rebekah, and the father himself of what would become the 12 tribes of Israel. Jacob "wrestles" with many of the same issues we wrestle with: family difficulties and sibling rivalry, deception and betrayal, love and loss, fear and forgiveness. *The stories of Jacob are our stories!* Through these stories we discover the God who is with us, who never gives up on us, and who through grace helps us grow into the people God always meant for us to be!

Questions of Faith

Pastor Bob and Pastor Dawn would like your help in determining what topics we tackle in our Sunday sermons! Notecards are available that ask the question: "In what area(s) of your life do you struggle most to live out your Christian faith?" In a sentence-or-two jot down what topics or issues you would like us to address in an upcoming sermon, then please return the card in the collection plate; you can sign your name, or not. We promise to keep your sermon request cards before us in our worship planning and in our prayers.

