



*Peace United Church of Christ*

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*June 2020*

*The Tidings*



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## *From the Pastor's Study • June 2020*

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*“By the rivers of Babylon—*

*there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.*

*On the willows there we hung up our harps.*

*For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,*

*“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”*

*How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?” - Psalm 137: 1-4*

I am humbled by the way that the Psalms move from lament to prayer, despair to praise. I think that before I really understood the context of Psalm 137 I knew its power. It was set to Reggae music that played through the night in my college art studio and spoke to me again as I heard these words lifted up by Peter, Paul, and Mary. But when the words really gained life was as I spent enough time with the story of Israel to understand the despair of being exiled from home and needing to remember how to find joy and grounding in an un-chosen and un-welcome reality. For the Israelites, the Babylonians had laid siege to Jerusalem/Zion and had taken much of the population into that strange land by waves. The experience of trying to find God in the midst of that scattering, that diaspora state, becomes a powerful memory in the shaping of Judaism and then Christianity. Throughout history, God's people have sought God in those moments when their entire world was turned upside down.

Of course, we find ourselves in another scattered state of being. Slowly our communities are opening and we are trying to put back together the ways of life that we cherish. If we are wise, we realize that thus far we have been very lucky not to have watched the global wildfire of pandemic take hold here... but a good measure of that has looked more like luck than care or respect for this invisible threat. A brand-new virus has scattered us to our homes and to a new reality of social distancing and increased care for how we are to interact. As our world has changed, there is great cause for grieving. Significant life events are postponed or almost unrecognizably altered: graduations, weddings, funerals. Jobs and workplaces have changed and, for some, vanished. Teachers, pastors, and all of those people who have answered a calling to be in constant interaction with others have found themselves in a strange land of phone calls and computer interactions. There is a great grief that cries out from within many of us and it sounds a lot like those exiles sitting down by the river's shore and weeping for what we remember of the past.

What we know of Israel's time is that the time of exile also became a defining time for the people. I read scholars who attribute our having a written Hebrew Bible to that period of not being where the people wanted to be. If we read that Psalm, we hear the weeping and the lament... but I have also always been drawn to the sitting down by the water and hanging the harps on the branches of the willows. That image holds echoes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm's story of restoration and care. Even in the midst of our trials, if we look up, we encounter God's life-giving activity: the waters of Babylon and a willow tree. Or for us, the loud proclamation from God is that God is very busy in our world in all that blooms and grows and has life in this season. If we only look up from our distress, we cannot help but to see signs of God's life and grace all around us.

There is a song to which I was just introduced that took words that are attributed to an unknown Jewish author during the second world war... the details of the attribution are quite unclear, but the text is incredibly simple and powerful:

“I believe in the sun, even when it’s not shining.  
I believe in love, even when I don’t feel it.  
I believe in God, even when God is silent.”

We are living in a time when we are encouraged to remember how good it will be to be together again, a time when our laments of grief might again be turned to songs of joy. But like the faithful through the ages, we don’t know the timing of that return. So in this moment, in this place wherever it may be, we are invited to open our hearts in faith and to believe and to trust and to see God's hand at work all around us.

May God continue to bless us and to bind us together across time and space as we hold fast to hope and love.

*PASTOR ERIC*

## **We have been working hard to discern how and when we might be able to gather again for worship...**

There are some in our community who have been expressing their longing to be able to reconnect in some safe physical way. There are others who are content to ere on the side of caution and wait until all is once again safe for us to gather. This is new territory for all of us, and all that we are learning from a health/science standpoint suggests that things will not change dramatically anytime soon. We are also aware that gathering inside our sanctuary with a large group for a prolonged period (some say more than 15 minutes) greatly increases our risk should.

In the effort to support our community we have been exploring the possibility of worshipping outdoors a couple of times this summer – being outdoors where we are mostly not rebreathing the same air is a significantly safer option for us. We finally secured some dates earlier this week for us to be able to experiment with this kind of gathering. We are required to have no more than 25% capacity in the park (the same guidance that we would be under when we are finally cleared to open the church). It is also required that everyone maintain a six-foot social distance, and wear facemasks. These services will be a learning experience for us to see if we can gather together in a way that allows us to see each other’s sparkling eyes peaking over a mask, to share in worship, and still to be as safe as we can be. All the health guidelines suggest that large gatherings of people over a sustained period of time presents the greatest risk for transmission of this new corona virus. Being outdoors will help mitigate the risks but cannot remove them. For those who wish, let us humbly gather and witness to how we can love one another enough to seek to keep each other safe and set a faithful example for our community. For those who feel uncomfortable gathering or are in any high-risk group, we will continue to post our worship services online.

## **An Experiment in Monthly Worship in the Park**

Next Week – **Sunday, June 7**, worship will be held at River Hill Park in Kewaskum. (1150 Parkview Dr.) There will be two services: 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

**(we will record this service and make it available online later in the day)**

Social Distancing Guidelines:

- Please conduct a self-check and stay home if you or a household member have symptoms of COVID-19 (Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea).
- If you or a household member are at higher risk for severe illness you are strongly encouraged to stay home.
- Please wear a face covering or mask.
- Please maintain a 6 feet distance from people who are not a part of your household – even if you are wearing a face covering or mask.
- We ask that you refrain from singing. Singing is a higher-risk activity, as it more forcefully expels respiratory droplets than speaking.
- Please bring your own lawn chairs.
- Please bring your own hand sanitizer.

Changes due to weather or Health Department or Wider Church Guidelines will be posted on Peace Church's website <https://www.peace-ucc.org> or Peace Church's Facebook page.

If all goes well, we hope to have additional outdoor services on July 5<sup>th</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions regarding the outdoor services, please contact the church office.

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# *Worship Schedule for Summer 2020*

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**All Worship Services at this time will be VIRTUAL unless otherwise noted.  
The Church building is closed with staff working remotely**

We are recording services and posting them to our YouTube Channel at “Peace UCC Kewaskum” or you can find a link from our website: [www.peace-ucc.org](http://www.peace-ucc.org) or through our Facebook page. We seek to post services by the times listed below:

Sunday, June 7, 8:00 am and 9:30 am at **River Hill Park**

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8 ● 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 ● Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 14 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 ● Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100 ● Romans 5:1-8 ● Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Sunday, June 21 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 ● Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 ● Romans 6:1b-11 ● Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday, June 28 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13 ● Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 ● Romans 6:12-23 ● Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday, July 5 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **River Hill Park**

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13 ● Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14 ● Romans 7:15-25a ● Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 12 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112 ● Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13 ● Romans 8:1-11 ● Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 ● Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or  
Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17 ● Romans 8:12-25 ● Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 26 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 ● 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm  
119:129-136 ● Romans 8:26-39 ● Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday, August 2 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **River Hill Park**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15 ● Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 ●  
Romans 9:1-5 ● Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b ● 1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm  
85:8-13 ● Romans 10:5-15 ● Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16 - Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133 ● Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67 ● Romans 11:1-2a,  
29-32 ● Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Sunday, August 23 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalm 124 ● Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 138 ● Romans 12:1-8 ●  
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b ● Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8 ●  
Romans 12:9-21 ● Matthew 16:21-28

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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### **Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)**

June 3 Ava Polzin (9)  
June 10 Reeve Thull (5)  
June 12 Kylie Van Beek (11)  
June 15 Mackenzie Herbst (9)  
June 19 Joseph Bocher (18)  
June 20 JohnMark Bocher (18)  
June 20 Joshua Bocher (18)  
June 26 Connor Lemke (16)

### **Birthdays (80 years plus)**

June 8 Jackie McCurdy (82)  
June 17 Pauline Jaeger (90)  
June 19 Heidi Thomas (96)  
June 24 John Hubbell (82)  
June 27 David Domasky (81)  
June 28 Darrel Nonhof (85)

### **Anniversaries**

June 1 Jason & Kelly Staffin (18)  
June 2 Tim & Jamie Lauenstein (8)  
June 3 Jerry & Kathy Shoemaker (48), Jeff & Mary Steger (42)  
June 5 Kim & Cliff Clark (10), Ralph & Verna Faisst (66)  
June 7 Paul & Shirley Reinders (62)  
June 8 Mike & Sherry McElthattton (35)  
June 9 Mark & Kim Bocher (30)  
June 10 Derek & Cheryl Peterson (25), Howard & Connie Zemlicka (59)  
June 11 Joe & Mary Billmann (54)  
June 12 Duane & Vicki Fenrick (44), Russ & Rose Marie Knoth (50), Pat & Al Schnepf (22)  
June 18 Arthur & Donna Schmidt (60)  
June 19 Jennifer & Eric Bayer (16)  
June 20 Bob & Kay Blackburn (39), Jim & Carol Gardner (61),  
Bill & Nancy Wiederanders(25)  
June 21 Bill & Diane Stangl (40)  
June 22 Becky Manthei & Mathias Dornacker (13), Wes & Barb Westra (57)  
June 23 Dave & Marlene Domasky (47), John & Sara Lemke (19),  
Roger & Kandy Lindgren (29)  
June 25 John & Jeanne Wood (60)

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## *Events and Activities*

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The **Book Discussion Group** will meet on Wednesday, June 3, at 9:30 a.m. at the church - outside in the parking lot if the weather is nice or "to be decided" if the weather prediction is not conducive to being outside. We will be discussing "Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This will be the last book discussion group until September.

**Tuesdays at 10 am. - Lectionary group. Each week we will study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday.**

Join Zoom Meeting on your computer by copying or clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/299920158?pwd=WTdLNEx4dXExRHFteFB3RVBjQzN1dz09>

Meeting ID: 299 920 158

Password: 114964

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,299920158#,,1#,114964# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,299920158#,,1#,114964# US (Chicago)

Dial in on your telephone -

+1 312 626 6799, then enter meeting ID: 299 920 158 Password: 114964

### **Peace Pantry**



Peace Pantry, located in the parking lot of Peace UCC Kewaskum is an outreach effort to support ANYONE who is in need! The pantry can be also be stocked by anyone! We encourage non-perishables, toothpaste, toothbrushes, household detergents (no harsh chemicals please), and other personal care items.

The pantry is open 24-7. You may drop off items or take items if you need! The Peace Pantry is open to the community...it takes a village.





**Blood Drive** - Peace Church is the scheduled site for a Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-6:00 PM. Many new precautions are in place to safeguard the health of volunteers, donors and Red Cross staff. If you, or anyone you know from the Kewaskum community, can support this life-saving event, please call the church office TODAY at 262-626-4011 to volunteer, and go online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to reserve a time to donate blood.

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## *Financial Reports*

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### Financial Report April 2020

#### **General Fund**

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of March 31, 2020	\$ (42,759)
Receipts	25,398
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	250
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$22,730)
Ending Balance as of 04/30/2020	<u>(\$40,091)</u>

Please know that each month the above balance report only represents our General Fund - the fund designated to meet the operating costs of our church. Thankfully we have sufficient monies in other funds to allow us to continue doing ministry and even dreaming during these times of economic distress. For those who are able, please continue to support the life of our church. For those who are not financially able at this time, offer your gifts in whatever way you can – a prayer, a card, a phone call. Together we will remain strong.

#### **Benevolence Receipts**

WI Conf. One Great Hour of Sharing	120.00
WI Conf. NIN	15.00
Lenten	169.00
Easter	895.00
Maundy Thurs	75.00
Good Friday	215.00
Full Shelf Food Pantry	25.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	140.00

Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>1,654.00</u>
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#### **Additional Information**

Project Balances as of 04/30/2020  
Church Kitchen Remodeling Project \$ 13,182.00



## Summer Sunday School News

Hi friends!!!

Be sure to tune into the Peace Church YouTube channel through the entire summer... June, July, and August! Follow the Sunday School link at: [www.peace-ucc.org](http://www.peace-ucc.org) Each week, Ms. Alexia will offer a fun lesson and introduce you to one of the famous characters you know and love... cowboy, space ranger, slinky, T-rex and MORE! Plus, you'll learn what toys can teach you about servng God, and the different people in the Bible who carried out God's purposes. Tune in any day or time. We'll be here for you!



## Rocky Railway VBS is on the way!

Virtual VBS premieres Monday, July 27th. Join friends from Peace Church and other Kewaskum families on a special adventure learning about Jesus' power!!! Virtual VBS allows you to watch, sing, and learn on your schedule right at home!!! Children ages 4-10 are invited to participate.

Watch for registration forms coming soon. Older kids can help too... watch for announcements. Join Ramsey, Ava, Sierra, Finn, and Lawrence as they share the fun of virtual VBS!

Please contact Jamie Piittmann, Pam Berres, or Becky Manthei for more information.

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# Consistory Meeting Minutes

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## Peace United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting Minutes March 10,2020

Member Present = X    Members Absent = left Blank

X	John Lemke (President/Deacon)	X	Steve Falk (Trustee)	X	Ken Singer (Elder)
X	Tom Kolb (Deacon)		Kathy Thomas (Trustee)	X	Don Neitzel (Elder)
X	Elizabeth Bobb (Deacon)	X	Paul Behring (Trustee)	X	John Lemke Sr. (Elder)
	Roger Mertz (Deacon)	X	David Roehrig (Trustee)	X	Karen Kletti (Trustee)
X	Kathy Charland (Deacon)	X	Nancy Horning (VP-Trustee)		Martha Wilson (Elder)

### Also Present:

#### A. Call to Order

B. Opening Prayer – offered by Pastor Eric

C. Appoint Consistory Secretary for 3/10/2020, Nancy Horning

D. Approval of Agenda – addition to Old Business - Update on XYZ Club, motion to accept by John Lemke, Sr. second by Martha Wilson and carried

E. Approval of minutes from February 11 meeting – motion to approve minutes as presented by Lemke Sr, second by Falk and carried

E. Financial Report – New simplified format discussed having the goals of transparency and communication with the congregation.

#### F. Pastor's Report As per Pastor Eric

#### G. President's Report

John Lemke, Jr. asked everyone to confirm their telephone number and email address. He also reminded member of his call for new ideas to be addressed at future meetings. Issues related to the presence of Corona virus in our community discussed including possible bans on large gatherings, effects on giving and celebrating Communion. Information was shared about statistics to be given with Robin for sharing with the congregation. Upgrades to general cleaning procedures and sanitizing before engaging in contact with others addressed.

#### H. Mission Moment – Discontinued

#### I. Old Business

The Mission Statement is waiting for congregational approval. The investment change-over is in happening; next step is to designate how we wish our funds to be invested (balancing risk and safety) by the UCC Foundation. The first of the CD's as the new vehicle for our "liquid" funds has been purchased, the rest will be purchased as per the plan outlined at the previous consistory meeting. The XYZ Club has had one gathering here at Peace Church in Fellowship Hall and they have been warmly welcomed. Cupboard space will be found for them to store the few items they would like to keep here.

## **J. New Business**

Two items were sent by the Memorial Committee for action: The expense (between \$800-\$900) of the purchase of art work and its framing to be taken from the Memorial Fund – motion passed unanimously; The updated Special Gifts and Memorials” booklet be approved for use in 2020 – motion passed unanimously.

## **K. Committee Reports**

**Deacons** – Simplified financial reporting as discussed under the financial report; the CD laddering is a work in progress; The amount of cash to be kept in the money market-checking account.

**Elders** – Scholarship committee presented an updated letter, forms, and volunteer log to be shared with relevant parties; the amount of total scholarship monies distributed over the past few years was presented – in 2013 \$500 was given to each qualified applicant, since the reserve fund had grown substantially \$750 was given to each of the 15 qualified applicants in 2019. The topic of having a service requirement for applicants was discussed. It was agreed that “requirement” had a negative connotation.

**Trustees** – The kitchen renovation committee had a productive meeting with Drexel on February 25 and is waiting on a design from them. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26. At 6:00. A spring Clean-up day is tentatively scheduled for April 18 from (900 – 12:00) with May 2 as a rain day.

The boiler was replaced due to a substantial leak discovered shortly before the annual maintenance appointment with J&H, the circulating pump was also rebuilt for a total expense of approximately \$8000 (This information was shared with consistory members electronically – approval for this expense was obtained by votes at both services March 1.) Paul Behring has given his notice that he intends to retire from the position of sexton by year’s end. The opening will be shared in the bulletin and Tidings.

**Care & Connection** – Our church’s mission continues to be carried out via lay visitation, the card ministry, and the grief group.

**Women at Peace:** A number of outings have taken place and have been well attended including both male and female members of the congregation and more are planned including a visit to the quilting museum in Cedarburg on March 25 and a trip to Lambeau Field.

**Personnel** – No interest shown so far on the Youth Minister position. While Cathy Stern had given notice that she would be leaving her position as Treasurer, she is reconsidering and the matter is not settled at this time.

**Evangelism/Marketing** –

**Faith Formation** – Please see Gayle’s report **ADD?**

**Habitat for Humanity** – There are some issues with the Iowa site so Karen is looking into other options. The trip to Frankfort Indiana is all set.

**Investment Committee** – Discussed under old business

**New Members** – next meeting April 5 with reception tentatively planned for May 3

**Pastoral Relations** – no report

**Scholarship** – discussed under Deacons report

**Worship** –

Additional topic – The length of recent consistory meetings prompted Kathy Charland to propose that committee reports be presented in written form for future meetings to allow adequate time to discuss matters that need discussion and input from all consistory members with the goal of having monthly meetings to be closer to an hour in length. The format of an executive summary – with a model to be presented in the future – was suggested.

## **L. Lord’s Prayer**

## **M. Adjournment**

**Peace United Church of Christ**  
**Consistory Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2020**

**Virtual Meeting Members Present:**

Paul Behring, Kathy Charland, Karen Kletti, Tom Kolb, John Lemke, John Lemke Sr., Roger Mertz, Dave Roehrig, Ken Singer

**Also present:** Pastor Eric, Kathy Stern

- A. **Call to Order:** 6:40 p.m.
- B. **Opening Prayer** - Led by Pastor Eric
- C. **Approval of Agenda** - Add discussions of all measures taken by the church due to the Coronavirus. Motion to accept by Dave Roehrig, second John C. Lemke and carried.
- D. **Approval of Minutes** from March 10, 2020 meeting.  
Change: Karen Kletti was not present.  
Motion to approve as amended by Tom Kolb, second John C. Lemke and carried.
- E. **Financial Report** - Kathy Stern created a new simplified report to make it easier to understand. Discussion followed on how best to use that information. It was shared that the general fund could use continued support. Motion to accept financial report for March as presented and placed on file for audit by Karen Kletti, second John C. Lemke and carried.
- F. **Pastor's Report** : E-mailed to all Consistory members. Consistory thanked Pastor Eric and all the participants whose hard work created the virtual services.
- G. **President's Report**
  - 1. Communication has continued with all members including Bible Study, Confirmation, and Sunday School through virtual classes.
  - 2. The church has been compensating all employees during this time.
  - 3. The President will write a letter to the congregation in the next Tidings.
- H. **Old Business** - None
- I. **New Business**
  - 1. Benevolent offerings for Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter were much less than normal because of not gathering for worship. What has been already contributed will be immediately distributed to these agencies in need; Kewaskum Food Pantry, Full Shelf Food Pantry, Kewaskum Boys and Girls Club, UCC Disaster Relief Fund. Any additional Lenten funds received will also be equally divided among these four charities.
- J. **Committee Reports**
  - Trustees - Dustin Kuehl will again be doing lawn care this year.
  - Habitat - Not sure what will happen- still possible.
- K. **Next Meeting** : Tuesday, May 11,2020 6:30 P.M. via ZOOM
- L. **Lord's Prayer**
- M. **Adjournment** - 8:08 P.M.