



Newsletter of the English-Speaking United Methodist Congregation in Munich: October 2020

Invitation to Peace Church Worship Services in October

In October we are offering the following worship opportunities:

There will be an **All-age Worship at 12 noon on Sundays**. This service is focussing on the all-age story and activities for the children. It is especially offered to families with young children, for school children and all who would like to come along to a lively and happy hour in church.

A **Quiet Evening Prayer will be offered on Sundays at 6pm**. It will be a quiet and meditative time of Taizé songs, prayers and a Bible text with a meditation. It will be very much what we had on Sunday evenings over the last few months. We would like to warmly invite all those people who prefer the smaller group, the quiet of the evening and the simplicity of the liturgy. In this service we can open the balcony to people who want to be very careful and not mix with others: they can then sit with sufficient distance, and still experience the flow of a church service and the atmosphere of a church community.

An **Online Prayer Time** is offered **on Tuesday evenings**. It is online (you use your smart phone or your laptop) and you only need to "pluck" in at 6pm and be connected in prayer and meditation with other Peace Church members. This is especially for all those who do not want to come the long way to church and avoid public transport or find travelling in these times generally difficult. For details contact Rino or ask Pastor Christine to put you in touch with Rino or Vanda.

We are Part of a Family: The Human Family of God.

In this time when we are all affected by the coronavirus, whether directly or indirectly, whether physically, biologically, psychologically, spiritually, and for many economically, it may be helpful to remember that we're in this together.

Jesus came among us in the first place, to show us the way to be right and reconciled with the God who is the creator of us all, and right and reconciled with each other as children of this one god who has created us all, and therefore made us as sisters, brothers, and siblings, of one another. Jesus came to show us how to be in a relationship with God and in relationship with each other, came to show us how to live not simply as collections of individual self-interest, but how to live as the human family of God. That's why he said love the Lord your God, love your neighbor as yourself. Because in that is hope for all of us to be the human family of God.

Working together as individuals from many different backgrounds, working together as churches, exchanging thoughts and ideas with one another, sharing and supporting each other, finding out which way one can go, and which paths to leave untouched is something essential and absolutely necessary.

We need to look not only at the Peace Church and its plans and members.

We need to have a worldwide awareness of what is going on, of where people suffer from Covid 19, from racism, from violence, terror, war, hunger. Our lives here in Munich are unpleasant at the moment, unsure, undecided... The lives of many others in the world are unbearable, and this puts the whole of humankind to shame.



We are all part of a big family. Bigger than our biological families, bigger than our immediate families, bigger than our congregations, bigger than our denominations, bigger than our cities, our states, our nation. We are part of the human family of God. Jesus came to show us that his way of love is the way of life. It's God's human family. We are in a time when remembering that may be important for all of us. We are in this together. What affects some directly affects all indirectly. We are part of a family. The human family of God.

The head of the World Health Organization, said this, and I quote, "We have seen this coming for years. Now is the time to act. This is not a drill. This epidemic can be pushed back, but only with collective, coordinated, and comprehensive approach by us all."

It takes us all. We are family.

And then one of the spokespersons for the European Union, speaking to the member states said this, and I paraphrase: We must share our resources and our information, which means scientific knowledge, medicines, vaccines etc. It is not the possession of any one nation.

In each of those calls, and in the calls of many knowledgeable people, we have heard again and again, that we are in this together, we can walk through this together, and we will find our way in our life together.

So, look out for your neighbours, look out for each other. Look out for yourselves. Listen to those who have knowledge that can help to guide us medically and help to guide us socially. Do everything that we can to do this together, to respond to each other's needs and to respond to our own needs. God loves you. God blesses you. God holds us all in tender hands of love.

With love and prayers for you all,
Pastor Christine

Practical Things for Church Life in Corona Times

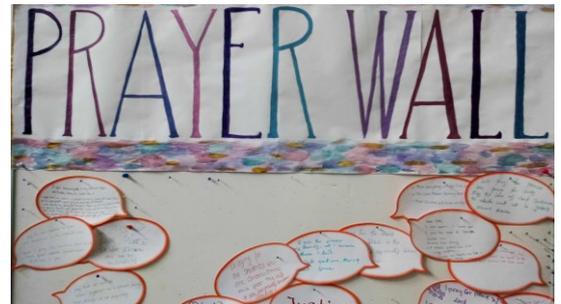
It's time for experiments!

We have to reshape our church life and invent worship services new. We must be open to trying out, we must be willing to make mistakes & let others make mistakes. In all this we are invited to see how manifold our ideas & talents are.

So, when we meet for worship, we must be prepared to many things that will have changed and will surprise us.

With the Covid-19 regulations...

- We are allowed 50 places in the Philippuskirche building. They are signed with a cross. Where there is no cross one must not sit! Families must sit together, couples, households too. Two households are allowed to be in touch with each other. We think we can seat about 80 to 100 people, supposing that families sit together using one place signed with a cross.



- When entering the church everybody must pass by a table with disinfectant spray for the hands. You must wear masks when you enter and leave the church, and when you move around in the room or sing. When you are seated quietly in the pew, you can take your mask off. At every service we have to keep a list with the participants' names and telephone numbers.
- Singing is allowed but we must wear our masks.
- Everybody has to keep a distance of 1.5 metres around themselves. If possible, no physical contact. (Exceptions are families).
- We have to use one door as an entrance and one as the exit. We will from now on enter the church through the door on the side

near the church parking place. And we will leave the church through the door which we have always used for coming in. It makes walking out easier and gives us the opportunity to spend time in the yard or on the place in front of the church once we have left it. It is nicer to exit into a yard and not onto a street.

- We are not allowed to use hymnals or instruments.
- If you are invited to an activity, stick strictly to the rules the worship leaders tell you.
- Services will be shorter than before the Corona crisis.
- We will try to find a solution for a simple church coffee outside the church.
- After the blessing and while the postlude is played people must begin leaving the church, one after the other.

We all need to be responsible for ourselves, make sure we feel comfortable and safe with what we do, and we need to take care of ourselves and others. We love each other and respect each other's decisions.

Did You Know That...



Kat Wagner and Christian Schreiber got married in Scargill House in North Yorkshire on 19 September? We are so glad that they found a way of having a wedding ceremony in spite of the Corona restrictions. We are happy and grateful to

have both of them in our congregation. We wish them showers of blessings for their life together.

It is a beautiful idea to meet in the park near Peace Church? Some young moms with babies and toddlers, and some families have already done that. It helps against the isolation that comes for so many of us with the Corona rules. It gives some normality

back to children who are not used to meeting people outside their immediate family anymore.



The Sunday evening services are a blessing to so many of us? They were meant to be a kind of compromise solution, and now they have become a much loved project to a group of mainly young adults. A big thank you goes to Rahel who organised the worship schedule in the beginning, and to people who were in the pulpit

for the first time, or who lead worship for the first time, and of course, to some new and inspiring musicians. Even when we go back to the Sunday noon services, we should not stop the evenings. This encouraging and innovative service must continue.

After a long break due to Corona, the Council on Ministries met again on 9 September? We reflected on what Corona had done to us as individuals but also as a community. And we were trying to make a few careful plans for something more resembling our church life.

The Homework Club will meet again? Some of our Homework Club students have successfully passed exams this summer. Irene and Merle will start at university. So will Eve and Sabrina. Erica finished Realschule and is now attending the FOS (Fachoberschule). Ioris and Lily are now in their last year before the Abitur exam. Fred will finish Realschule in summer 2021. The Homework Club is now only open to young people from class 5 on. Since we cannot serve food as we did in the past, Cathy Williams has offered to deliver lunch bags for every pupil and teacher. It is exciting to try out new ways of teaching and supporting the school kids.



The Council on Ministries discussed having an African-style Harvest Festival? We will be able to let 100 people into the church and have a short

worship service with a Bible story and dancing and praying. We must observe the distance of 1,5m though. The African Choir could sing from the

balcony where they must stand 2m away from each other. People could still bring their offerings (fruit etc); we will not auction things off but sell them at a kind of “market stall” in the yard. We cannot use the fellowship hall, and we will not have big pots of stew, but we will hand out carefully packaged finger food like meat pies and African donuts. Coffee could be served to people who bring their own cups. Everything apart from worship will have to take place outside the church building. We are hoping for good weather. Should it rain, we will try to borrow tents and put them up. Individual invitations with a sign-up slip will go out to the church members and friends.

We are not allowed to run Sunday School or Kids’ Club? While this is the case, Pastor Christine will continue sending fun and story packs out to the church children.

The Monday coffee&more project cannot be re-opened at the moment? However, we feel responsible to open the church somehow so people can use the toilets and warm up. We do not yet know how this can be organised best, but we are praying about it and discussing options.

The Women’s Bible Study is meetings at Rahel’s? The group is reading Catherine Keller’s book “On the Mystery”. Any woman interested contact Rahel Pereira or Pastor Christine.



From now on Pastor Christine has office hours? She is in her office at Philippuskirche on Thursday mornings from

9am to 1pm. You can book an appointment, or you just come along and see her for a chat, for counselling or for a cup of coffee - with your kids or without your kids. Christine is happy and excited to see you.

Peace Church Calendar in October 2020

Friday 2 October

Homework Club

Sunday 4 October

12 noon All-age Worship

6 pm Quiet Evening Prayer

Wednesday 7 October

7 pm Council on Ministries

Thursday 8 October

9am – 1pm Open Office

Friday 9 October

Homework Club

Sunday 11 October

12 noon All-age Worship

6 pm Quiet Evening Prayer

Thursday 15 October

9 am – 1 pm Open Office

Friday 16 October

Homework Club

Sunday 18 October

12 noon All-age Worship

6 pm Quiet Evening Prayer

Thursday 22 October

9am – 1pm Open Office

Friday 23 October

Homework Club

Sunday 24 October

We hope that at 12 noon the African-style Harvest Festival can take place

6 pm Quiet Evening Prayer

Thursday 29 October

9am – 1pm Open Office

Friday 30 October

no Homework Club!

Impressum

Your suggestions, comments and contributions are welcome. Deadline for the next issue is 26 October. If you would like to receive future issues by e-mail, please send a message to christine@peacechurch.de, simply type “PCN by mail” and we will add your address to the list.

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