



July 30, 2020

We are now open for in-person worship on Sundays at 9am. Masks and social distancing required. See pages 7-8 for more information.

PRAISING
LOVING
SERVING

WE ARE
ONE IN
CHRIST



Love.
Serve.
Repeat

live streaming



The Myth of Scarcity

And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

--Philippians 4:19 NRSV



If forced to pick the greatest threat to American Christianity today, I would say it is the myth of scarcity. My whole career in ministry I have worked at churches made up of members who were middle class and above. Despite their members' combined net worth being substantial almost every board or council meeting was spent discussing what the church didn't have enough of. (No wonder nominating committees can't fill seats on boards!) The two numbers that mattered most were not enough members and not enough money. For a religion supposedly (as Hebrews puts it) "confident in what we hope for and assured about what we cannot see," I've rarely known a church leader who was focused on anything else but the number of "butts in the pews" and the weekly offering. The American church is addicted to what it can see and touch regardless of what it says about faith.

Every church I've served at has its faithful older members who remember the "glory days" of growing budgets, building projects and packed church services. Compared to those days the present looks bleak. Yet, back in those days were churchgoers any more faithful? The post-war boom in population, expanding economy and expansion of the suburbs combined with a culture that gave social cache to going to church (irregardless of whether or not people actually followed Jesus) meant church growth was inevitable, at least until it wasn't. There was no need to trust God back then to provide what was needed, because our culture did it all for us. One did not need to have "assurance of what we cannot see," because what could be seen was plenty. I'm unconvinced faith had much to do with the success of churches in the "glory days."

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Join us on Sundays at 9am
In person or on-line

WORSHIP

In person Sunday Worship or
watch on You Tube, Facebook Live
or Live Stream on our website



We have live-streaming available on
YouTube. You can find the live stream
by searching YouTube for **Park Hill
Christian Church KC**

Sunday's service will also
be livestreamed on church
**Facebook Page: Park Hill
Christian Church KCMO**

You can live stream on our website
<https://www.parkhillcc.org/> Choose the
streaming option from top menu.



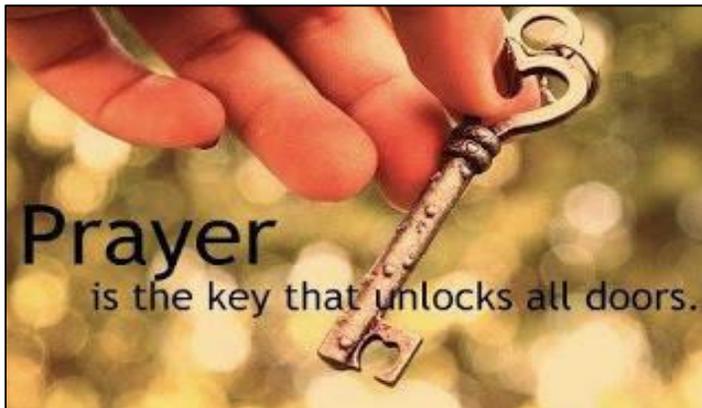
Prayer Requests

- ❖ Continued prayers for **Pat Stehl** who is recovering from a fall, she is bruised and sore, but thankfully, nothing is broken!
- ❖ Prayers for **Rick Howell** who is having cancer screening.
- ❖ Pray for the **family of Rachel Rojas** as they mourn her recent passing.
- ❖ Please continue to pray for **Gary Bjorn** who is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.
- ❖ **UPDATE:** The Stehl family thanks you for the prayers for **Cindy Stehl** (wife of Doug Stehl, daughter in law of Pat Stehl and sister in law Judy Krtek, Julie Kloeppel and Jill Watson) Cindy's chemotherapy treatment is progressing well and they are awaiting the next step.

Continued Prayers:



Edna Annunzio, Werner Beldo, Norma Biggs' family, Norma Phillips, Wendy Lashbrook, Bill Porter, Virginia Long: Martha Fullerton's Mother, Gage Schneider, son of a friend of Martha Fullerton, Carolyn Waterman, Jonathan Valler, Julie Waddle, Jim & Sharon Sumner's daughter, Susan Yeager, Mary Jo Rinke, Steve Plagmann, The family of Renae Dishman Ronayne, and the family of Sandy Quinly Good, friends of Martha Fullerton, Rick Rollins, friend of the Hoovers, and for Denise Waddle's mom: Lorraine Vandersteen



Let us join you in prayer...

Contact the church office, or have a loved one contact us, if you have been admitted to the hospital, would like a special visit, or would like to be placed on the church prayer list. Please notify us when you want to be removed from the prayer list. We are here for our beloved Park Hill Christian Church family.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Lydia Circle

August 10th

6:30pm

at Jodi
Ravenscraft's
home

Bring your own
snacks/drinks to the
socially distanced
gathering on the patio.

Sunday School: will happen virtually and will NOT be held in person. Meeting credentials are below.

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Sunday School is held VIRTUALLY via Zoom meeting on Sundays at 10:30am. New credentials are listed below and includes a phone number for those that want to call in and listen.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5494388847>

Meeting ID: 549 438 8847

Password: 6fqx0V

Dial by your location:

+1 312 626 6799 (US)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kjQjyOMwU>

We will discuss Sunday's sermon.

Discussion questions and background info
will be sent in Friday's email.



HOMECOMING



September 13, 2020



Join us of for a special Homecoming Event featuring guest preacher Larry Patterson. It begins with 9am worship followed with fellowship and a meal in the Patterson Life Center at 10am. We will observe social distancing and comply with COVID-19 mandates. Help celebrate nostalgic memories and experiences we have had in our building over the years as we count our blessings and continue to expand our Christian outreach to our community. Hope to see you there.

Don't get me wrong about what I mean when I talk about faith and trusting God. I'm not a proponent of the so-called "prosperity gospel." I don't believe in "name it and claim it" theology, and I don't think it's God's will for believers to be rich. I also don't believe churches should be irresponsible with. No, what I believe in is trusting God already has given us everything we need to accomplish what God wishes to happen.

Just once, I'd love to hear a church leader stand up during the annual stewardship drive and make a budget based on what they believe God wishes a church to do and be rather than on annual receipts that keep declining year after year. I believe if churches actually spent time discerning who God wanted them to be and what God wanted them to do before they made a budget, they might practice trusting God will provide what is needed to accomplish those things.

I am not holding my breath for such a moment. Church folks are just like everybody else-- bombarded constantly by messages saying they do not have enough for what they need to be happy, enough to protect themselves, enough things to buy at Costco, enough to compare with their neighbors. A column by me in a church newsletter won't counter that storm of scarcity messaging. Only God can transform people enough to live with an abundance mindset.

It's not like God's abundance is difficult to find. Even a cursory glance at scripture or a rudimentary understanding of Christian practice, should give Christians at least an inkling of the abundance God offers. Hebrew Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann writes eloquently about this:



The conflict between the narratives of abundance and of scarcity is the defining problem confronting us at the turn of the millennium. The gospel story of abundance asserts that we originated in the magnificent, inexplicable love of a God who loved the world into generous being. The baptismal service declares that each of us has been miraculously loved into existence by God. And the story of abundance says that our lives will end in God, and that this well-being cannot be taken from us. In the words of St. Paul, neither life nor death nor angels nor principalities nor things — nothing can separate us from God. What we know about our beginnings and our endings, then, creates a different kind of present tense for us. We can live according to an ethic whereby we are not driven, controlled, anxious, frantic or greedy, precisely because we are sufficiently at home and at peace to care about others as we have been cared for.

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The Myth of Scarcity

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As a culture, we love watching Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* every year and we hear Jacob Marley's warning to Scrooge about being miserly. "I wear the chain I forged in life," the ghost of Marley cries. "I made it link by link, and yard by yard, and of my own free will." Marley's eternal punishment doesn't exactly line up with scripture, but we get the point of him chained to his accounting ledgers. We hear Marley, but we identify with the poor Cratchet family and never with Scrooge. Meanwhile, the chains of our materialism, our belief in scarcity, our faith in never having enough, entrap us in this life, if not the next. God's abundance offers freedom from our chains of scarcity.

In this pandemic, where the economic needs in our culture have been revealed in all their starkness, we get to ask, "Are families going hungry because there isn't enough food in the world?" The answer is clearly no. "Are people without jobs because there isn't enough money in the world?" The answer is likewise no. "Are people lacking healthcare because there aren't enough resources in the world?" Once again, no. "Are churches closing because there aren't enough people in the world who want to connect with God?" No.

Even though the answers to some of these questions involve some very complex and systemic issues, what they all boil down to is an unwillingness to trust in God's abundance, that there is enough for all, that if other people get what they need I will still get what I need.

Over recent months, the media has been full of stories of people's inspiring generosity. A Maryland teen learned woodworking in order to sell his pieces to help homeless families. Chefs around the country are holding online bake sales to feed the hungry. When people trust that they have enough to share with others, their generosity is contagious. We all know how good it feels to give away what we have to help others, but our giving is a rare experiment rather than a lifestyle.



Maybe this belief in scarcity is understandable for people who believe in "the law of supply and demand" more than the law of loving one's neighbor. Surely, the scarcity mindset makes sense for people who believe in the Gospel of Ben Franklin "God helps those who help themselves" more than the Gospel of Jesus Christ who taught us not to worry because "God's eye is on the sparrow." But isn't it reasonable to think people who claim to actually believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ might put their faith in God before they put their trust in what their paystub says, their address reveals, and their garages contain?

I don't know what the future of Park Hill Christian Church will be, but I do believe any future worth having will come through the people who make it up being freed from the myth of scarcity.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Chase Peoples

OUTREACH



Hello Parkhill Christian Church members, The Board members for SPEAC Pantry, would like to say thank you for all the food donations.

*May God Bless
Mary Ellen Olson, C.S.*



Feeding the Community

SPEAC formed in 1989 with one simple mission: to help alleviate hunger in Southern Platte County, Missouri. The partnership developed with several local churches and the United Services Community Action Agency. Supported by local congregations, the faith community, and civic organizations SPEAC is an independent 501(c)3 organization. SPEAC is staffed by volunteers and its Board of Directors serves without compensation



Carrie Stewart and Deb Turpin volunteer at SPEAC. Rev. Chase Peebles visited the pantry last week and took this photo.

Park Hill Christian Church Worship Reopening Plan

PURPOSE: The goal of the worship reopening plan is for all who wish to return to worshipping in person on **July 5, 2020** in the PHCC sanctuary to do so in a manner that ensures their personal safety and the safety of others while the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING: The second greatest commandment (Matthew 22:39) is for Christians to love their neighbors as they do themselves, so ensuring the safety and health of others remains at the core of who we are as Christians. Christians are urged to follow Christ's example of sacrificing his own comfort for the benefit of others (Philippians 2:1-11). Christians are urged to limit their own freedom to benefit others (1 Corinthians 10:23-33). Christ teaches loving care for the most vulnerable ("at risk") in society (Matthew 25:31-46).

"AT RISK" PEOPLE:

- The elderly (CDC states the at-risk group is people 65+ years)
- Those with auto-immune challenges
- Those with underlying health conditions (asthma, lung issues, etc.)
- Persons of color
- Those with no health insurance
- Low-income people



1. **Social Distancing** (goal is 6 feet of distance between people)
Stickers will be placed on pews indicating where individuals, couples or families may sit.
2. **Masks will be worn by everyone present** . If someone does not have a mask, masks will be provided. When people are leading worship, such as elders praying at communion, vocalists singing, or the minister preaching, they will not wear masks, but when they are not doing these tasks, masks will be worn.
3. **Limiting Surface Contact.** No bulletins will be used. Bibles and hymnals have been removed from pew racks. Envelopes, pens, pencils and art table art supplies have all been removed from the sanctuary.
4. **Singing.** Congregants are asked not to sing during the worship service. Research studies have shown that singing sends droplets from the mouth twice as far as talking. Masks do not prevent the spread of water droplets from the mouth when a person sings.



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Church Reopening Plan



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- 5. Communion.** Single-use communion kits containing juice and wafer will be placed at each spot marked for people to sit. No plates will be passed for communion and no one will go up to the altar to receive the elements. Congregants may bring their own communion elements from home but should not share them beyond their family unit.
- 6. Offering.** An offering plate will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary to receive offerings. Church members are reminded to make use of online giving options.
- 7. Hand Sanitizers.** Hand sanitizers will be made available at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- 8. Dismissal.** Congregants will be dismissed by section and asked to remain six feet from congregants outside their family unit. Congregants will be asked not to linger in narthex but may talk outside the building where they can keep a six feet distance from one another.
- 9. Nursery and Sunday School.** For the foreseeable future, the nursery will not be open and Sunday School will not be held in person.



Sunday Worship for July 26th ATTENDANCE #s

People are tuning in or coming in to hear Rev. Peeples.

Since reopening for in person Sunday worship on July 5th we report the following attendance numbers for July 12th:

Face Book Live:	39 views
YouTube Channel:	58 views
Livestreaming:	8 views
In person:	20 attendees





Donation request for Assistance League of Kansas City

The Deborah Group wanted to continue our annual school supply drive so we contacted the Assistance League to see about their needs. We have given the school supplies to the Assistance League for the past two years. They pass these supplies out to several schools in the North land to children in need. The letter below explains their situation regarding donations. If you would like to donate to this cause please go to their website at: <http://www.alkc.org/>

The donation process is pretty easy. As you can read they are in need of money due to the reSale Shop having been closed during the Stay at Home order. Please give this much consideration so we can reach out and help those in need.

Blessings,
Deborah Group

Dear Fellow Supporter,

Will Kansas City metro area children attend school this fall? No one knows for sure.

Will children still need new school clothes this year? Yes!

Whether school starts in the fall or January, children do not stop growing out of their clothes, or wearing them out during a pandemic.

Will families impacted by the pandemic require other items and services? Yes!

Assistance League® of Kansas City helps families by providing essentials including children's eye glasses and exams, cribs, diapers, clothes for homeless teens, emergency food, clothing for victims of sexual assault, and comfort for lonely seniors.

Will Assistance League® of Kansas City be able to meet these and other pressing needs? No! Not without your help.

Our main source of income, THE ReSALE SHOP, closed like other non-essential local businesses in Kansas City. We lost a substantial portion of our annual revenue.

In light of uncertainty about school opening dates and to be able to respond to the evolving needs of the community, Assistance League® of Kansas City will not request donations this year through the Step Up for Students campaign. Instead, we ask for contributions which we will use to provide school clothing for vulnerable children, but also food and other day to day essentials for their families and for other Kansas City adults in need.

Without donations from caring community members like you, fewer children will be clothed, fewer unaccompanied teens in crisis will receive support, fewer survivors of sexual assault will be comforted, and fewer at risk seniors will be helped. Please be generous, but any amount will make a difference.

Sincerely,

Rita Pickering, President 2020-21



Park Hill Christian Church

6601 NW 72nd St
Kansas City, MO 64151

Connect with us:

Phone: 816-741-1851

Fax: 816-741-1898

Website: www.parkhillcc.org

Facebook Page:

Praisinglovingservingkc

Sunday Service:

Join us at 9:10 am

Live Streaming available at
[http://p23.worshipstream.com/
115/ParkHillChristianChurch](http://p23.worshipstream.com/115/ParkHillChristianChurch)

Interim Minister

Reverend Chase Peoples

Ministry Leader

with Young People

Madison Upton Patterson

Ministry Support Administrator

Melissa Foley

office@parkhillcc.org

Church Executive Committee

Jill Watson, Carl Kimbrell,
Don Bonjour

Elder Chair

Damon Stewart

Deacon Chair

Don Bonjour

Music Director

Rajean Buffa

Organist

Doris Stevenson

Audio/Video Tech

Kathy Hendrix