

Pompton Reformed Church  
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April, 2020

## **CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

SOCIAL-DISTANCING

I S O L A T I O N

## **QUARANTINE !**

If you had told me when I was putting together the March newsletter that this is where we would be at the end of March, I would (and did) scoff. Shortly into March, my school closed- at first for two weeks, then a month and now until further notice.

Corona Virus (Covid19) has taken over our lives. It is all we hear and think about. With the governor's order that all nonessential entities close for the benefit of stopping the passing of the virus, Pompton Reformed closed the doors and a new way of life began.

We experience the Word of God remotely, from our homes, via computer. We can't shake hands or give hugs and we can't visit with our congregants.

Pastor John has been preaching the last words of Jesus for the Lenten series. It comes at a very poignant time for things look very dark for our world right now.

Here are messages from your friends at PRC.

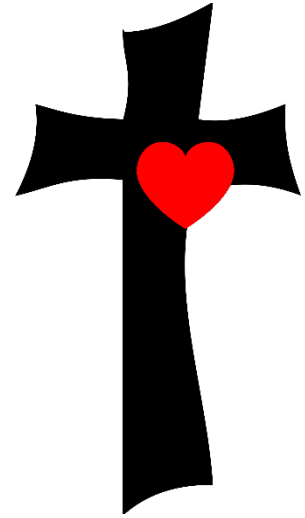
All were (and are!) invited to contribute. Please do.

We want to hear from you.

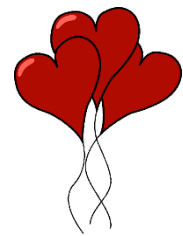
## The Easter We Almost Missed

By Elaine Peacock

Well April is upon us and Easter is almost here or is it? We are all very COVID-19 weary and our lives have been turned upside down and the message of Easter seems so far away. I think of the traditions we practice every year from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday and it pains me to know there will be no palms, no Good Friday service and no church filled with flowers and joyous music. But wait, look around you, the robins have returned, the forsythia is blooming as are the daffodils and tulips. Spring is right on time. God has given us rays of sunshine, hope and peace. OK, Easter won't be the same this year but God's message is still the same; his love for his children will never change it remains constant. Remember to keep your heart open to God's message of Easter. Happy Easter!!



This was missed in the last issue.



From Mrs. Ball to Sunday School Students:

Thank you for the lovely Valentine Card you sent me. I will treasure it forever, and keep it as a reminder of what a sweet, thoughtful group you are.

I will keep you in my prayers, and know that God will give you all a very happy life, with lots of fun.

Love to all,  
Mrs. Ball

## Seven Days of Faith - R. Paul Stevens (submitted by Jack Tice)

Though my parents never intended it, their spiritual nurturing included exposing me to the ministry of the poor to the rich. They built our family home on a three-acre plot next door to a one-room shack without water, electricity, indoor plumbing, or a furnace. Albert Jupp lived with his aged and ill mother in that smelly, dank shack. As he was occupied with the care of his mother, Albert was unable to hold down a steady job. Somehow they eked out an existence beside the Stevens, their rich next-door neighbors. Today the rich hardly see the poor except on television or from an air-conditioned tour bus.

Each night Albert would get a pail of water at our outside tap, which was always kept running, even in the dead of winter when our neighbors had their taps safely protected from freezing. My mother was one of the most generous souls on earth, and her sensitive conscience would not allow her to set a fine meal before our family without thinking of Albert and his mother. So night after night I was asked to make a pilgrimage up the hill to the shack with two portions from our table for our poor neighbors. I confess that as a teenager I usually resented doing this. But when I think was bothering me was how that nightly visit to the Jupps made me think about my own existence as a rich young man. Daily I was confronted existentially with the truth that the rich cannot know God well without relating to the poor.

## Prayers for the people, by the people:

Norman Hunt

Isaiah Doland

Bob & Judy

All those with the virus

Tony Reino

Colleen Claves

Barbara and Jackie



**Four of my neighbors and myself have been meeting to pray - we meet in the hall on the 3rd Floor to say prayers - have met so far 4 times - we call ourselves the Building #2 3rd Floor Prayer Warriors." I understand there are similar groups in some of the other buildings. Oh yes we are following the 10 feet away rule.**

**From Elaine Peacock**



### Lessons Learned When Quarantined

Hi Friends! It has been a long time since we have seen each other and I miss you all very much! I am doing well thanks to my many friends who have been checking in on me through the phone, email, and text! Thank you all very much! I in turn have had the time to call friends I haven't heard from in a while and each conversation was very enjoyable and in many ways brought me down memory lane. As many of you know I love to be out socializing with my friends. I miss listening to Pastor John's sermons and our beautiful music while sitting in our beautiful church surrounded by our loving Church Family. I miss talking to you all at Coffee Hour. I miss playing the bells. I miss going out to lunch after Coffee Hour with friends. I will miss helping out at our Free Community Breakfast, our Bake Sale at Raymour and Flanigan, and our Fish and Chips Dinner. I will miss all of those activities because I enjoy working with all of you and I would be serving our community many of which are my own personal friends. And the worst part will be missing Easter Sunday once again in our beloved Church. We were all so excited because we have a brand new minister and we were looking forward to celebrating our first Easter with Pastor John and his fabulous family! But we are very lucky that Pastor John realizes many of us could feel isolated so not only does he give a sermon every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m., he also is teaching a class about Jesus on Tuesday nights at 8:00 p.m. for four weeks. You will find the sermon and class on our website and on Facebook.

When an emergency like this comes along it can be very frightening! The most frightening part of this is not knowing how long we will have to stay inside. Our country has always been very good at rising to the occasion when facing a challenge like we are facing today. Our country has never gone through something like this before. While the computer can cause problems at times, at this time I believe it is a very positive tool. While on Facebook many people volunteer to pick up groceries and medications for the elderly. The children are outside drawing beautiful pictures on the sidewalks, driveways, and roads while adding many positive messages. Someone else suggested that they draw rainbows on their windows so when people walk by they can count the rainbows. I have also heard people ask the public to put a white candle in the window. Another idea was to put Christmas lights up because people are usually happy when they see them. People are



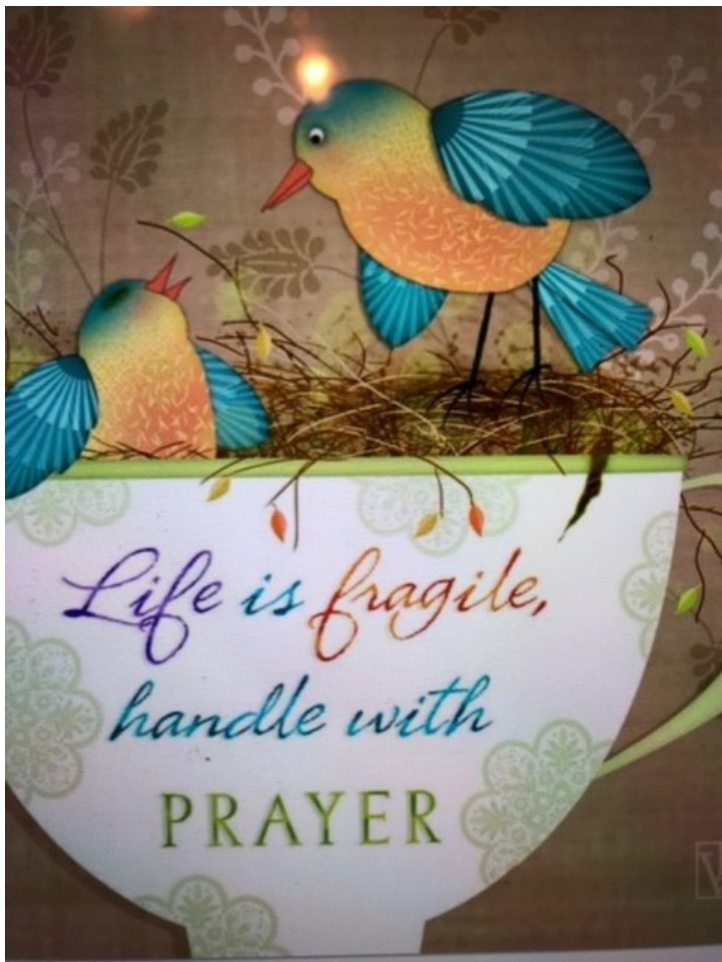
## People Stayed Home

And the people stayed home.  
And read books and listened, and rested and exercised,  
and made art and played games,  
and learned new ways of being and were still.  
And listened more deeply.  
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.  
Some met their shadows.  
And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.  
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways the earth began to heal.

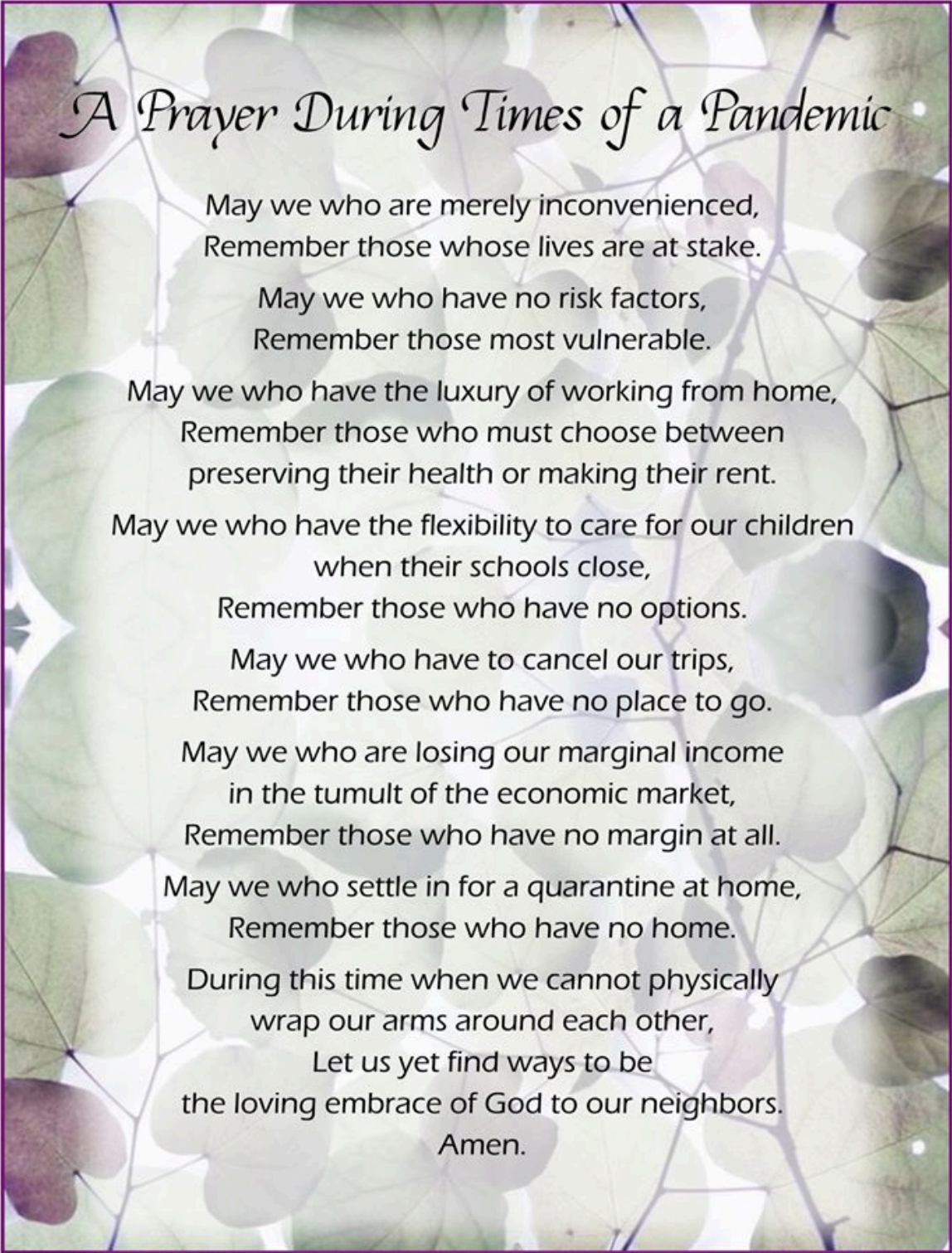
And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,  
they grieved their losses, and made new choices,  
and dreamed new images,  
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,  
as they had been healed.

– Written by Kitty O'Meara, inspired perhaps by an Italian poem by Irene Vella



From Jackie Bush





## *A Prayer During Times of a Pandemic*

May we who are merely inconvenienced,  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,  
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,  
Remember those who must choose between  
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children  
when their schools close,  
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,  
Remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing our marginal income  
in the tumult of the economic market,  
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,  
Remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically  
wrap our arms around each other,  
Let us yet find ways to be  
the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

## April Dates

**Good Friday- Friday, April 10**

***EASTER-*** Sunday April 12

Although we cannot be together, and our gatherings might be small, we will celebrate regardless. For the King has risen and we are saved from ourselves. May Christian Joy lighten your heart as we celebrate the fulfillment of the scriptures:

*But He was pierced for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,  
and by His wounds we are healed.*

*<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5,6*



Due to the Corona Virus and resultant orders to self-isolate/socially distance, the Community Breakfast and the Raymour and Flanagan Easter Egg Hunt have been postponed/cancelled. It is very likely the community dinner, which was scheduled to start in April, will be postponed to a new start date as well.

Check the PRC website for updates and the latest PRC information.

### Mission News

Hi PRC Family,

What an unfamiliar and uncertain world we are currently living in. Please know I continue to uplift PRC in my prayers during this time and am confident that God is at work in the midst of this crisis in Pompton Lakes in the same way I am trusting him here in Boston. I will note, a positive of this time for me has been the chance for me to join you all virtually through Sunday messages and in the Jesus Class.

It is amazing that it has only been 2 weeks since my trip to Puerto Rico, but I am grateful that we were able to go at just the right time and get back home safely. It was an incredible week full of hard work (I don't think I have ever painted as much as I did on this trip) and moments to deeply love, encourage, and share about Jesus with people who are still recovering from having their lives turned upside down by Hurricane Maria and the recent earthquakes.



I created a webpage with lots of pictures, stories, and a video to share a recap of the trip, it is viewable here: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/pzqawWxqfbgPO/>

Thank you for making this trip and all the work and ministry that we were able to complete possible. Your love and support for me is deeply felt and it brings me great joy to be able to share that love with people in Puerto Rico. I look forward in the months ahead to being able to join in-person in worship again with all of you soon.

With much gratitude,  
Robert Barrett



## **New Beginnings!!!**

Watching my friend Anna walk down the aisle holding an Ipad with her parents on the screen, was such a sweet moment from this past weekend.

**Who knew that we would be where we are today, watching weddings on a screen with no one in the pews and even the Bride's parents watching from a video chat? In the midst of a time where much of the world is closing down, God's people are still showing the world what the kingdom looks like. Anna and Logan's marriage represents Christ to the world even when viewed through a screen.**

**Like Logan and Anna, the CCO is not stopping in the mission to bring the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to college students. Just today I had my first of many video chats with students. Bible Studies are still happening online and even large group gatherings through various online media platforms. It is in these times where we, the church, need to believe and proclaim the kingdom to a world in need of God's love and saving grace.**

*Will you join me in praying, that God's people will proclaim his promises to a world*

*gripped with fear and anxiety?*

## **Cave Family Update**

**We are viewing this time not as just a time to survive but to let God create new habits and patterns for us to thrive as a family. We have a ways to go, but are excited for how God will transform us through this trial.**

**On the health side we are all happy and healthy as we await to see the fruit of our communities efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.**

### Wilson Family Update

Greetings Friends and Family - First, please accept our apologies for not keeping all of you up to date (especially those who receive news via Dear Friends letters). While we spent time with many of you during the summer months and have shared with you how God is at work in Cambodia through our Christmas letter and annual report, we also realize that it has been some time since our last, complete update. I'm sorry to say that our next update will be delayed as well given our current circumstances. Read on ...

Family News - like many of you, our family is facing challenging times. Deb came to the U.S. near the beginning of March due to an illness in her family. As of the writing of this message on March 26, Mark and Zach are in Holland, MI, in self-isolation, Deb is in Dearborn, MI, staying with her sister, both Zach's school (NWC) and the Phnom Penh Bible School have closed their campuses, and, the Cambodian government has banned entry into the country of all foreigners for at least the next month. We cannot return home. And, just yesterday, Deb's Dad, Ralph Schneider went to be with the Lord. Thank you for sharing your love, prayers, and support! Mark, Deb & Zach Thank you for sharing your love, prayers, and support! Mark, Deb & Zach

There is Good News! First, while we mourn Ralph's death, we are a people of a true and certain hope that he is in the presence of the Lord and so we rejoice! The Lord has wiped away every tear from his eyes—no mourning, crying, or pain. For Ralph, all things are now new again. Not even the bullet wound he sustained in WWII, which gave him such pain during his life, will keep him from standing before God's

throne to join in the great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages to worship the Lord! Likewise, we are thankful that in God's perfect timing Deb was able to arrive in the U.S. before her father became unable to communicate. We're thankful that the Bible school closed when it did and Mark was able to get a flight out before the country "closed" and that there was housing available through the RCA for Mark after he arrived for him to safely self-isolate in. We're thankful that Deb and her sister were able to visit with their dad one last time after being banned from the retirement complex (like every other facility due to Corona concerns). We're thankful that Zach was able to safely drive from IA to MI on his own and that the RCA Global Mission staff and so many of you have shown us your love through words of encouragement and comfort and your actions. People have brought food and supplies, gone to the pharmacy, and even shared their toilet paper! For these gifts and many more, we give thanks to the Lord!

We are also thankful that the car accident that we were in after the Christmas holiday (a chain-reaction crash with five vehicles) did not badly injure anyone, including us! And, that our insurance company came through as promised. The car is, in many ways, better than before the accident. Please join us as we pray for:

- God's comfort for those who have and are suffering in this current global crisis.
- God's wisdom and strength for the leaders of the world, that they would find the best way forward.
- God's strength and protection for essential workers who are on the front lines every day. They go out so we do not need to. Especially healthcare workers, truck drivers, those working in funeral homes and nursing homes and members of various branches of public services, and so many more!
- God's work in and through our pastors, elders, mission leaders, and chaplains who are working overtime to guide and spiritually nourish so many in these challenging circumstances (and figuring out how to best do so each day).
- God's grace and peace for our family and other missionaries who are either still in their places of mission or others, like ourselves (and some international students), who are now unable to return home.

Thank you for sharing your love, prayers, and support! Mark, Deb & Zach

*But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Matt 14:27*

This is a very cute video song relevant to all of us but children will love it!

“All God’s Children Have a Place in the Choir”

<https://youtu.be/gPSBzD775Dc>

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue of the PRC newsletter. Please consider adding a note for next month’s newsletter. Submissions are requested by April 26. Please send to [khuysers@msn.com](mailto:khuysers@msn.com).



Christ is  
Risen!

He is Risen,