



# PCR Post

*A Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Radford*

## ***From the Pastors***

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January 20, 2021

Dear PCR Family,

It's been a couple of months since our last newsletter, and we bet you can guess why! After we returned from visiting Kelsey's family in Texas, we jumped right into Advent. Considering that we're still in the COVID-times, it was a comforting Advent for us, and we hope that you found some joy and comfort in the season, too. Kelsey loved getting together with some of you over Zoom every Sunday morning to learn about Advent hymns, and Peter enjoyed leading Visio Divina sessions weekly as well. We used special liturgy in worship and listened to Alex sing hymns that helped us to anticipate the coming of Christ. Hudson made us smile with some jazzy Peanuts Christmas music, and Georgeanne and the children and youth of PCR did a wonderful job bringing all of us Christmas cheer with a Zoom Christmas pageant! And then what about Christmas itself? Well, the weather didn't quite cooperate, so we welcomed the Christ child on December 23rd with a candlelight service in the parking lot, and then we (your pastors and staff) put together an online service as well that we filmed in the sanctuary to give you a taste of your church home.

We enjoyed our first Christmas in Radford with a visit from Kelsey's sister Laina and Laina's husband James. They arrived in Radford shortly after our early Candlelight Christmas Eve service in the parking lot, but they enjoyed getting to meet some of you the following Sunday morning. We stayed inside, cooked delicious food together, and played games throughout the week. The highlight of our time together was singing Christmas hymns outside late on Christmas Eve while snow fell all across our yard, giving Kelsey her first white Christmas! Things may not be normal, but we have still gotten to share some beautiful moments as your pastors here in Radford this year.

Now that it's January, we want to say that things have slowed down, but it's still a busy time in church life, isn't it? We ordained and installed the 2023 class of elders this past Sunday in worship, and Session will be voting on the annual budget next week. We are so pleased to welcome Diane Bibb and Paige Herndon to Session for the first time, and to welcome back Brenda Whisonant and Tom Mogen! We did new elder training together a couple of weeks ago, which renewed our appreciation for being Presbyterian. For all of our faults, there is something wonderful about being called to "serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love," as we say in our constitutional questions at ordination. With God's help, all of us are empowered to serve one another in this way, and that's something to be thankful for! Keep reading for further updates below. May God's blessing go with you today and always.

Your pastors,  
Kelsey and Peter

## ***COVID-19 Update & Vaccine Registration***

While the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines is under way, cases are still steadily rising and our hospitals are close to the maximum capacity. The return to our regular rhythms is in sight, but it is still likely to be a long way off as it will take a lot of time and participation for the vaccine to help us achieve herd immunity. For the time being, we will stay the course that prioritizes the safety of our congregation and our loved ones. We will be continuing to worship outside in the parking lot unless there is rain or snow that keeps us from gathering, and then will provide an online alternative.

**The New River Health District is administering the COVID-19 vaccine to people in phase 1B, which includes people 65 and older, as well as people with high-risk medical conditions.** If that's you, pre-register for your vaccine at the link below, or call the phone number below.

<https://www.nrvroadtowellness.com/covid-vaccines>  
(540) 838-8222

## ***Church Zoom Account***

We have a new Zoom account available for any church members to use! If you would like to host a Zoom gathering for others at the church, just ask the church office for the login information. This Zoom account will allow you to host virtual gatherings for any number of people for as long as you need, and there is also the option for participants to call in using a landline.



Everyone joining the meeting can use free accounts they must make for themselves using their personal email addresses. Please let Sylvia know when you plan on hosting a meeting so that there aren't scheduling conflicts. For a step-by-step walk through of how to host a meeting, check out this video on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/2M3wprb>

If you have other questions about how to use Zoom, feel free to ask Peter or Kelsey!

## ***Newsletter Contributions***

Do you or your committee have something that you'd like to have included in the next newsletter? Send it to Sylvia at [pcofradford@gmail.com](mailto:pcofradford@gmail.com) and we'll make sure that it's included in our next issue. Make sure to get submissions in by the second Tuesday of the month.

## *Lent & Holy Week*



Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Please read the Friday emails for updates on our Lenten programs! As we did in Advent, we will be using resources from *A Sanctified Art* to enrich our Lenten worship.

- **Lenten Book Study**

*Sundays during Lent at 9:30am*

Kelsey and Peter (alternating) will be leading a study on Zoom on John Lindemark's *Worship in Light of the Cross*. We'll share the Zoom link in our Friday email every week. If you have any questions about Zoom, please let us know! You can find the book on [Cokesbury](#) or [Amazon](#), or we would be happy to order a copy for you (\$12). Please contact [pastorpeterhf@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpeterhf@gmail.com) if you are interested or if you have questions.

- **Daily Devotional**

We have a wonderful daily devotional for the season from *A Sanctified Art*, and we're excited to share it with you! We will send out a digital copy to everyone the week before Lent begins, and we will also have some printed copies available in the church office

- **Stations of the Cross**

We will be setting up Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary for personal prayer throughout Lent. The stations will guide you through prayer and reflection on the crucifixion as we remember Christ's journey to the cross this Lenten season. Reserve time in the sanctuary via this link: <https://pcradford.appointlet.com/s/pcr-sanctuary>

Reservations can only be made three hours apart, which will allow any aerosols from worshipers to diffuse before another family group enters the space.

- **Holy Week**

Weather permitting, we will be planning outdoor drive-in worship services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. We will also do an online service for Good Friday. Unless pandemic conditions change or the Covid 19 Administrative Commission decides our safety guidelines should change, we will be preparing online worship services as alternatives if it rains. Please check emails (or paper mail if that is your preferred communication) for more details as Holy Week approaches.

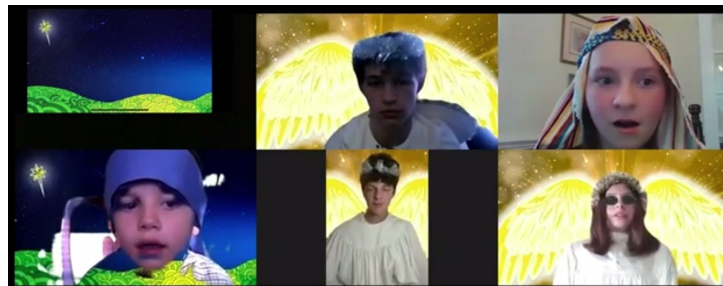




# From the DCE

Wow!! What a busy, but beautiful Advent season! The kids, musicians, and parents worked so hard to put together our virtual Christmas pageant. It felt as though the kids got so much more out of this experience with understanding the Christmas story more deeply as they performed their parts.

It was such a spiritual feeling hearing the beautiful voices of our choir members and hearing our beloved piano and organ play music once again.



## Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 14

This year telling people how much we love them is even more important. Here are some ideas you can do and stay safe.

Virtual date

Have a picnic outdoors

Gifts by the mail

Create an online Valentine card

Binge watch on romantic movies

Cook dinner together

Volunteer together

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

