



# PCR Post

*A Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Radford*

## ***From the Pastors***

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July 13, 2021

Dear PCR Family,

Summer has certainly arrived! We are thankful to be worshipping indoors with air conditioning, still in relative safety from COVID-19, since so many of you are vaccinated and continue to mask during worship. We are keeping an eye on the spread of COVID variants in Virginia that are much more transmissible, and you can too on the Virginia Department of Health website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-data-insights/variants-of-concern/>

Okay, enough about the pandemic! Your pastors have been keeping busy this past month. If you were in worship on June 20th, you may have met Kelsey's parents! We took vacation the week that they were here, although it wasn't the relaxing kind of vacation... They helped keep us motivated in getting our home ready for the baby! There was lots of work to be done, and we are so thankful for the time that we had together. Kelsey's family will be returning for a very brief visit this month as well.

When we returned, we caught up on emails, planned worship, called and visited folks - the usual! We also got ahead on planning scripture and hymns for worship so that our accompanist (which has been Alice Collier for the last few weeks - thank you so much, Alice!) could have some extra time to prepare.

It was a joy to celebrate communion with you all on the first Sunday of July, and we got to do one of the best things about being pastors: home communion! As Presbyterians, we believe that the Lord's Table isn't just the table in our sanctuary, but extends out to all of God's children. Some aren't able to come to the table at PCR, so we have the privilege of bringing the table to them! This is a ministry of the church that can be done by the pastors, but it can also be done by elders. We may call on you to join us in the future!

One of the big things that we've done in the past month is successfully set up livestreaming worship. Up until now, Kelsey recorded the service on her phone, and then edited, rendered, and uploaded the video every Sunday afternoon. Over the past few months, Peter has scoured Google, watched countless YouTube videos, and contacted pastor colleagues in order to figure out how to set up live streaming. It's simple if you use a phone, but we need to use a

camera and computer, which is much, much more complicated! Anyway, now it's possible to watch the worship service as it's happening on our Facebook page. We still have some kinks to work out, but we are so pleased to have this option available for folks. It's been a long time coming!

We have also been supporting the worship committee and the Christian education committee in their personnel searches this summer. As you'll see later in the newsletter, we are excited to welcome Leonard Wekesa as our new Director of Music! The worship committee has done such a wonderful job with the search and interview process, as well as with keeping the musical part of worship running smoothly. We are so grateful to them!

Kelsey spent the past week putting together this newsletter, and Peter is working on getting UKirk started in the fall. It's a better situation than last year, since it'll be possible to have shared meals again. He is looking forward to being able to have in-person gatherings with college students, and hoping to be able to meet new students and gather at the table with them! We will also be having a pastors' meeting this week (we do have to schedule these, even though we see each other every day) to map out the 2021-2022 liturgical year.

Stay tuned for a couple more announcements in this newsletter. It is such a joy to be part of this community!

Your Pastors,  
Peter and Kelsey

# Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Sunday school starts on September 12th, and we need teachers for:

- children's church,
- the children's Sunday school class
- the junior/senior high class

Ideally, teachers would be able to alternate with 2-3 other volunteers, each teaching one month at a time.

That way, we can carry the load together and volunteers would still be able to participate in adult Sunday school and in worship during their 'off' months.

Curriculum is provided, and if you need support in preparing to teach (especially if it's your first time), your pastors are happy to help.

*Please prayerfully consider if teaching Sunday school is something to which God is calling you!*



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# Ice Cream Social & All Committees Meeting Sunday August 29th

## Ice Cream Social - 6pm

The Fellowship Committee welcomes everybody back to our first potluck event since the pandemic. Bring homemade or store-bought ice cream, cookies, or toppings to share, and enjoy dessert and fellowship together. To keep everyone safe, especially unvaccinated children, the food will be dispensed by fully vaccinated, masked, and gloved committee members.



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## All Committees Meeting - 7pm

After the ice cream social, please stay for the All Committees planning meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Members of committees are encouraged to attend to plan events for the coming year.

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# Welcome to Our New Director of Music!

We are excited to have Leonard Wekesa join the Presbyterian Church of Radford staff as our Director of Music beginning Sunday, July 25, 2021.

Leonard is a passionate teacher of music with extensive background in teaching elementary, high school and university students. Leonard is from Nairobi, Kenya and has a Bachelor of Education Arts, Music and Religious Studies from Kenyatta University. He has an MBA focusing on Strategic Management from University of Nairobi, Kenya. He recently completed a Master of Arts: Choral Conducting, Radford, University in April 2021.

Leonard has had numerous experiences working with Choruses at Radford University. Prior to that he was Head of Music and Choir Director at State House Girls High School, Nairobi, Kenya and also established a choral program at Riara Springs Academy in Nairobi, Kenya.

Leonard visited our church in June and had the occasion to speak with Alex and Hudson regarding our current program. He is looking forward to helping the Presbyterian Church of Radford build a strong Church Choir utilizing some Radford University students. We hope to have many years with Leonard, supporting his work at the Presbyterian Church of Radford!

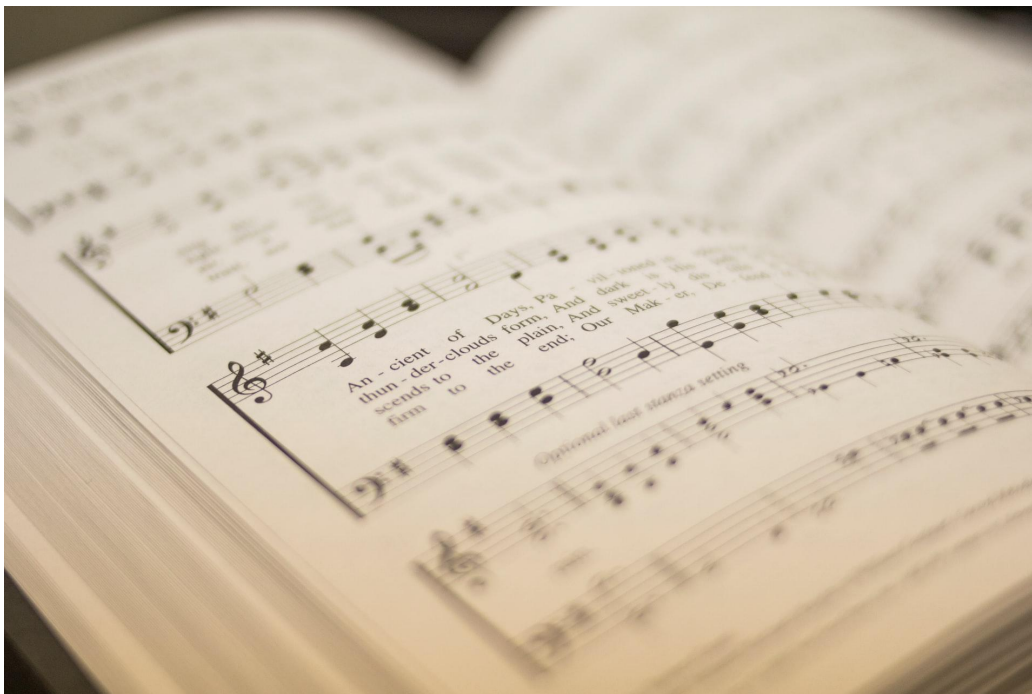


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