

# The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

Spring, 2020

## I am proud of you, my Peace family.

Yes, I feel like a proud mother of a large family that is grieving and praying over the enormous problems we face in the world with this virus, and you are coping very well under the circumstances. You are expressing your pain, your worries, and your frustrations. You are growing in faith, trusting more deeply in God, as you live in a more dependent, reflective season of life. Many of you are bravely signing on to Zoom meetings or calling to encourage one another in faith. Some of you are serving the community in your own work, or teaching your own children. Some are mask-making, or volunteering at Beth-El. Others are writing generous checks to guarantee that our staff will not miss a paycheck, our sanctuary mortgage will be covered in full, and our community will be assisted with extra discretionary gifts. All of you are patiently adjusting to online worship, and sending such encouraging and helpful messages to those of us working on to provide a service that glorifies God and inspires you, God's people. The staff made enormous shifts and the Session supported with faithful decisions each step of the way.



We will continue to dream of new ways of being the church. Share your thoughts with others via email or phone. Embrace new patterns of devoting yourself to God and one another in prayer. Take advantage of this opportunity to engage in spiritual renewal as Paul says to the Romans, chapter 12, verse 2: "Do not be conformed

to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect."

We are all learning afresh the wonderful Avery and Marsh song: *The church is not a building. The church is not a steeple. The church is not a resting place. The church is a people. I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together. We are together, even separated. We are together in love. We are together in keeping safe. We are together in making the Great Commandment of Jesus Christ central in our lives—love God and love your neighbor. Our vulnerable neighbors are everyone everywhere, but we will especially remember those who came into this viral season in a weaker position—*



weaker spiritually, physically, emotionally, mentally, or financially. Like Jesus, let us be especially attentive and compassionate toward the poor, the weak, and the suffering, always praying to grow in our capacity to regard all human beings with the same kind of dignity that Jesus gave when he walked this earth.

Prayerfully yours,

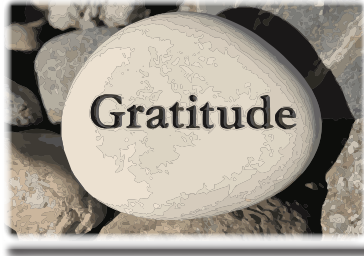
*Elizabeth*

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert  
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

## Gratitude Team Creates Booklet

The Gratitude Team is pleased to announce the creation of a booklet, *Expressions of Gratitude*, a compilation of the gratitude notes written and verbally shared as a part of our 10 and 10 Celebration as well as a center section that features the foundations and practices of Peace Church and its grounding in the life and mission of Jesus Christ.

This booklet will be available to everyone at Peace. It will also be used as an introduction to Peace for our new members



and visitors interested in knowing more about Peace.

We know many folks at Peace are reaching out to keep in touch and help others in so many ways. Let's show our gratitude for the grand blessing of the Peace Church family by continuing to look out for and care for one another!

Current plans are to have the Time and Talent FAir Sunday August 30. Please keep your teams set for that to happen. Here's hoping we have some "normal" by then!

## PEACE: A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH choosing to focus on these three issues:



- **BUILDING CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- **DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL RACISM** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **ERADICATING SYSTEMIC POVERTY** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

## Annual CROPWALK

Peace Presbyterian has accepted the invitation to become a Matthew 25 Church, by compassionately serving the least of these who are hungry, poor, or oppressed. On Feb. 23, twenty nine (29) intergenerational Peace folks participated in CROP Walk by securing pledges and walking 3 miles between

Palmetto and The Bradenton Riverwalk via the Green Bridge.



Two 4-legged members, "Olive" Huber and "Chloe" Camphire also

enjoyed the simple fellowship, great exercise, and magnificent views over the Manatee River.

Dubbed the "granddaddy of charitable walks," CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Project) was started in 1947 to help feed those in need post WW II. Approximately \$15, 615 was raised for Church World Service by the 14 participating Manatee County churches. Peace Church raised \$1,949, 25% of which stays in Manatee County to help combat hunger.

Consider joining Peace friends and those with a "heart for

mission" during this annual ecumenical event.



Back on February 23, a large group (yes, a group) from Peace walked on the CROP Walk.

## FAITH AND FILM



The Faith and Film schedule for the rest of Spring 2020 has been put on pause due to the Coronavirus shutdown. We will eventually resume in accordance with Peace Presbyterian Church's compliance with safe re-opening of our facility. Until then, dates to be determined, we will have no face-to-face Movie Nights in the Fellowship Hall.

Tentatively, if the church is able to re-open for church events by next fall, we have three movies from our Spring list that we can look forward to next fall. In coordination with the rest of our regular church events, we will resume Movie Night on the Second Friday of each month, starting in September 2020.

### Tentative Fall Schedule

#### Sept 11, 2020

***On the Basis of Sex*** (2018, PG-13, 2:00)

David Mullen & Judi Creneti, Discussion Leaders

**Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer**

The true story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her struggles for equal rights, and the early cases of a historic career that lead to her nomination and confirmation as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice.



admits to being silent and antisocial. The authorities have decided to move him from his solitary confinement in a maximum security prison to another prison situated in the Nevada desert. Assigned to do "outdoor maintenance," Roman observes some of the other inmates working with wild mustangs, led by Myles (Bruce Dern), the crusty and critical trainer in charge of the program. Based on a true story. Authentic mustang horse training scenes.

#### Nov 13, 2020

***The Biggest Little Farm*** (2018, PG, 1:31)

Documentarian John Chester and his wife Molly work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. The hopeful story of a natural farm built on biodiversity and a recognition of interconnections, impermanence, and transformation. (NOTE: *The Biggest Little Farm* might be rescheduled for an April 2021 date in proximity with Earth Day.)



#### Oct 9, 2020

***The Mustang*** (2019, R, 1:36)

Dirk Brinkmeyer, Discussion Leader

**Matthias Schoenaerts, Jason Mitchell, Bruce Dern**

Uplifting story about how a wild mustang becomes a spiritual teacher to an emotionally shut-down man. Roman Coleman (Matthias Schoenaerts) is a prison inmate who



The complete schedule for the 2020-2021 Movie Night selections will be announced later. A film selection committee will discuss appropriate possibilities in accord with Peace

Presbyterian's mission statement and core values. ANYONE IS WELCOME TO SUGGEST MOVIES TO ADD TO THE SCHEDULE. E-mail David Thomas: davidthomas1572@comcast.net.

## October 11 Peace Forum on Incarceration and Rehabilitation

The October 9 Faith and Film movie is *The Mustang*—about a man, Roman, in a prison situated in the Nevada desert. Assigned to do "outdoor maintenance," Roman observes some of the other inmates working with wild mustangs, led by Myles (Bruce Dern), the crusty and critical trainer in charge of the program. Based on a true story.

In connection with the movie, on Sunday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. there will be a Peace Forum on Incarceration and Rehabilitation lead by Peace people who have experience with criminal justice systems in the U.S.

The Peace Forum is a time and place for talking and learning about the important issues of our lives. We talk



about those things that concern us: our lives, our futures, and those of our children and grandchildren.

Incorporating Presbyterian values going back 500 years to the Reformation, we are working to transform society, to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and to use

God's creative power for the fulfilment of human life. (The Confession of 1967)

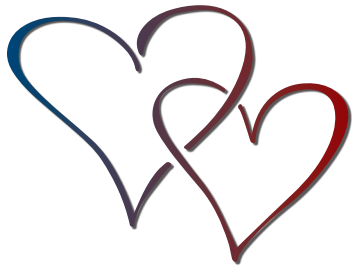
At Peace Forums we discuss matters with full civility, listen deeply, and respect persons with different perspectives, and "commit to being uneasy" in our diverse life together.

**Congregational Care Team** is rolling along like a well-oiled machine. The Pray-ers (including some Care Cluster Leaders) pray daily and diligently. Isn't it great that God probably doesn't care when they pray or how they're dressed at the time? Or even where on the planet they are-he knows how they are caring for us when we

so need the concern.

Stephen Ministers are meeting and training via Zoom. Dedicated folks who often put others' needs before their own. Care Cluster Leaders are staying in close contact with their groups. Again, more Peace folks deeply invested in the lives of our congregation.

Here's an idea we all could try: how about surprising your Care Cluster Leaders with an email, phone call, card or note. They do so much for us-why couldn't we send thoughts in return?



Let's also keep in our grateful thoughts the healthcare professionals within Peace who are serving during this virus emergency: Sally Schoeffel (our Session Elder for Congregational Care), Relindis Ches, Toni Muirhead, Amy Olson, Connie Ricci, Julia Simmons, Martha Burkholder, Leanne Stefanski, and physicians Melissa Fleck, Richard Deibert and William McSwain are spread throughout the community in many different organizations.



Stay safe and remember that none of us are alone during this somber and often confusing time!



## WORSHIP

God bless everyone and may the Peace of Christ be with you all as you move through this time of uncertainty. Stay safe and we will get back to a new normal when this pandemic is over. I know that I have come to realize just how important our Peace church community is to me. I miss you all.

Worship and Music team wishes to compliment Amy, Elizabeth, Eirinn, Jenni, Richard, and a variety of

musicians and readers who have made contributions to the virtual Sunday and Holy Week services. You have brought wonderful worship services to us when we have definitely needed it in our lives.



*Drive-up communion was an early distancing option for Peace.*

When services resume in the sanctuary we will notify communion servers of the schedule for serving.

Jo-Anne McLaughlin

**Fellowship**  
We miss seeing everyone at fellowship time. We look forward to having fellowship again as soon as church returns to normal schedule.



# Hobby Share

On Feb. 9, Peace had a **Hobby Share** where many showed off their art, hobbies and pastimes. It was in memory of Dick Kaeyer, whose beautiful handmade kayak was highlighted (below).



All four of the Sammons family shared their hobbies with the group.



Nancy Bonnell shared several shell projects as well as the knitting she makes as a hobby.



Lydia and Richard discuss the success of the hobby share.

# HOW I SPENT MY COVIDCATION



*This mystery couple played "Guess Who I Am" for hours with each other. At last count the score was tied 0-0, oh well!*



*Toni and Glen took an afternoon to wear fun hats in front of some body of water.*

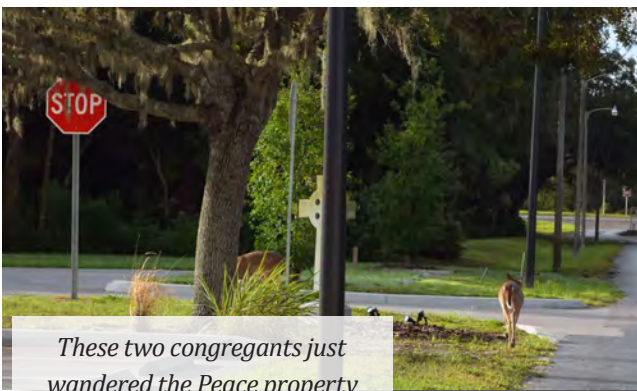
*The Kragts were able to make their household tools stand at attention, not an easy task.*



*After days of practice, Eirinn and Chris show how they are able spell YO! They are now ready for their roles on **The Sopranos**.*



**DaViners**  
*On the Peace Path, Robin sweated and strained pulling vines and digging up their roots, Peter was satisfied giving "constructive" input.*



*These two congregants just wandered the Peace property while ignoring all traffic signs.*



*The Kertsens worked on their crafting skills as Steve served as the model for his wood carving.*

## Outreach Team

It's a little hard to "do outreach" while staying in, but we are managing to do that at Peace Church. Many are doing "in-reach"—checking up on other members via phone, text or email; and of course we can be together in virtual worship on Sundays, and go to the church's website / Facebook page for updates. I am pleased to report that in the last month, our Facebook page has had 8,000 unique visitors; we have over 400 followers; and almost 3,000 people viewed one or more videos. We are making a difference in our community.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, we sponsored a delightful February 6 concert: Elisabeth Von Trapp, granddaughter of the Captain and Maria. She put on a terrific one-woman show, and had all of us singing along. It was a joy to see one of the local senior communities bringing two vans! There will be more concerts in the future.

Are you a fan of the "Peaceful Path"—the untamed area between the parking lot and SR64? You will be glad to know that Nicky Mullins, U of F Extension office, is consulting with us to plan for that area. It will be a safe, calm place to walk or sit and meditate. Nothing will happen overnight... but some of our Peace members are using their isolation time to stop by with garden gloves and shears, ridding the trees of unwanted vines and working out their excess energy. Feel free to show up and clip!

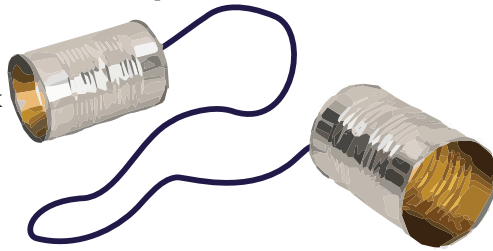
If you are isolated or overwhelmed, and uncertain what to believe about Covid19, please remember that we have access to [Medlineplus.gov](https://medlineplus.gov). It is an easy site to navigate, and these days, the featured articles are about the coronavirus. You can also use the site to research symptoms, side effects, nutrition, drug interactions and much more. We are grateful to Barbara Wright, who procured a grant for Peace: laptops to use as we coach others on using the site.

There's not much on the "coming up" list. The May 2 Health & Wellness Fair will not be taking place; and even if we are able to reschedule later in the year, we have to ask ourselves if the community would be willing to attend a large gathering. Also, there will not be a Family Fun Fest in 2020.

A possible event, later in May, might be a social distancing tailgate event. We'd sit in our own car, or on the car, or stroll around while keeping a safe distance... just to see each other in person. We will keep you posted via Elizabeth's weekly email.

Stay safe, be faithful, take care of others. As an Irish blessing says, "Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

Lynda Harman  
Outreach Team Leader



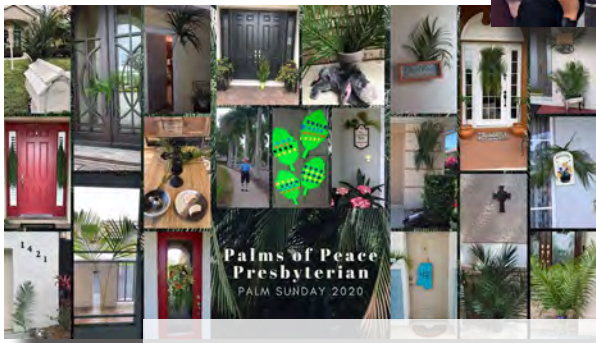
*This is a great time to enjoy a stroll along the Peaceful Path.*



*Peace volunteers have been at Beth-El every week in the past months.*



*Amy also made a photocollage of flowers people shared for Easter Sunday.*



*Amy Cerniglia made a collage of palms from people's doors on Palm Sunday.*



*The Wednesday Women's Bible Study has started meeting on Zoom, as have several other groups at Peace.*



*Many Peace sewers started making protective masks for health workers and anyone else who asked. We give our thanks.*

*Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest  
if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9*





During the first quarter of 2020, the Property Team has been working at a steady pace on safety and maintenance of the campus. A full-day tree trimming and stump grinding event was successful with improving the sight-lines of our entrance and signage as well as removing diseased trees from the entrance lane and near the Peace Center. Rain gutters were added to the north side of the Peace Center for convenience to those entering through either of the northern entrance doors.

The largest project was completed in March. You cannot see the improvement in the daylight. However, when dusk is upon us, the entrance lane and parking areas on the west and

northern sides of the Peace Center are beautifully illuminated for safety and security due to the repair and replacement of highly efficient LED parking lot lights. These projects were on the team's wish list for 2020. They were made possible by generous donors, Don Deibert and the McCallisters, who assisted in the purchasing of the parking lot lights and rain gutter. We give gratitude and thanks to them.

Thank you to the volunteers who continue to maintain the courtyard. Sadly, we canceled the Property Clean-up Day, but we have already rescheduled for Saturday, October 17. The next items we will tackle are painting the hallways and the start of the carpet replacement project in the Peace Center. Although there is much we wish to do, we are exercising patience at this time and look forward to reuniting with our Peace family.



## Music Department News



Music at Peace looks very different these days. While COVID-19 interrupted our concert series this year, the season wrapped with a gorgeous performance by Elisabeth Von Trapp. Shortly

afterward, the Peace music family turned to phone, email, ZOOM, and the USPS to stay connected. Thanks to our musical pastor, our virtual services still feature a voice to accompany hymns. You may have also noticed other faces such as flautist Cynthia, baritone Kyle, pianist David, violinist Amanda, and the Sammons family leading through prerecorded music. Keep an eye out, and you'll notice Deb, Lori, and musicians you miss from Peace!

Seeking comfort during this tumultuous time, I've turned to the Glory to God hymnal, particularly the settings of the psalms. These are hymns we don't often sing, as the appropriate psalm may not appear very often in the lectionary, but several seem to speak especially to this time. For example, the setting of Psalm 31 for Palm Sunday declared, "As for me, I trust in you, O Lord...you deliver me." The Psalm 22 setting for Good Friday boldly stated, "You are a stronghold for all the oppressed; hear us, O God! Let your people be blessed."

On the same YouTube channel as our Peace worship services, I've uploaded recordings of some of these psalms, which can be hard to find on the Internet. The rhymed verses help me to remember the Scripture's message. After all the practice it takes for me to learn the music, I wind up with psalms replaying in my head, even without conscious thought. If you have a Glory to God hymnal at home, consider browsing and learning a setting of your favorite psalm. Music has such

power to uplift the spirit, and singing the psalms is one of the best ways to commit God's Word to memory.

Other recordings of service music are on YouTube as well. If you loved Cynthia's Lord of the Dance or Kyle's Were You There? in our Easter Sunday worship, you can access those recordings without having to reload long worship service videos. If you missed Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services, you'll want to look for those to check out unique cinematography from Richard Deibert, artwork curated by Jenni Holt, and powerful reading of the Passion story by the familiar voices of Peace youth and staff.

If you haven't checked out the Peaceful Playlist, this compilation of songs from our Peace musicians may also provide comfort. You can listen to the playlist on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/youtubepeaceplaylist> and read stories behind submitted songs at <https://tinyurl.com/peacefulplaylist>.

As much as I miss all of you, I remember the words of Bernstein when he conducted the New York Philharmonic shortly after the assassination of Kennedy and encouraged all to "make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." We may be stuck inside right now, but we always have the comfort of familiar hymns, the adventure of learning new ones, and the technology to explore music even from our homes.

Musicians! Join us and Zoom together on Wednesdays at 6:30! Singers, bell ringers, instrumentalists, youth, longtime veterans, newbies, snowbirds and full-time Floridians are welcome. Without knowing when this time of sheltering in place will end, I'd like to tentatively continue this through May. Check with Amy for more information.



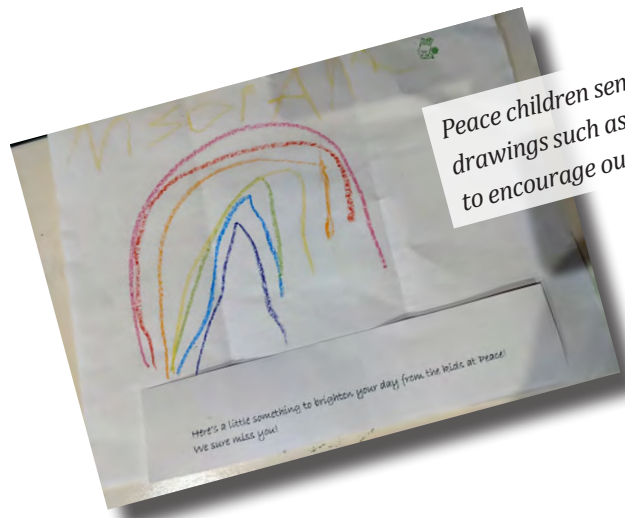
## Children, Family and Youth

The Youth and Children at Peace started out 2020 with some great activities: volunteering at Beth-El on school holidays, walking in the CROP walk, hiking at Rye Park and jumping at Sky Zone. We also

immensely enjoyed the Life 101 series for school & career preparation by Shereen Sliwowski and personal finance tutorial by Dirk Brinkmeyer and Ed Walch. We have re-scheduled the Cedarkirk Family Retreat for September 25-27, 2020. We miss being together and being with all of the rest of you at Peace during this time.



*Kids Club hiking at Rye Preserve.*



*Peace children sent cheerful drawings such as this rainbow to encourage our members.*



*Way back in January, the Youth planted seagrass at Robinson Preserve.*



*The Kids Club had a Zoom get-together in the past month.*



*Youth jumping at Sky Zone.*

## Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

Cedarkirk officially closed to guest groups in the middle of March and will remain closed until the end of April. We are monitoring announcements from the CDC and staying in contact with our local Dept. of Health to keep abreast of current recommendations. It is likely that we will extend our current closure and remain closed into May as well. This is difficult on us financially as our income is \$0 right now, but we'll weather the storm with the help of a dedicated staff and Board, and the prayers of our faithful constituents. God has been faithful to Cedarkirk for 49 years and we are confident God will see us through this.

Currently, we are hoping to run at least some portion of summer camp (fingers crossed!), though we recognize those programs will look somewhat different this summer in light of COVID-19. Our program team is also working on developing a "virtual" program for our summer campers in the event we cannot host residential camp. This would allow us to stay engaged with campers and their families.

Cedarkirk has enough cash reserves to operate at its current level for four months. After that, we would need to begin making some rather drastic cost-saving measures,

which would likely include a significant furlough or layoff of staff, as that is our greatest expense. One bright spot is that we have been able to find jobs around camp for our hourly kitchen staff so that they can continue to receive a paycheck during these challenging times.



Despite all of the uncertainty surrounding the next weeks and months, we have still been able to live our mission. Jackie and the kitchen staff wanted to use up some of the food that won't last until our next groups arrive. They cooked all of the hams and turkeys in the freezer, made some fresh bread and cookies, and were able to build more than 100 sandwiches.

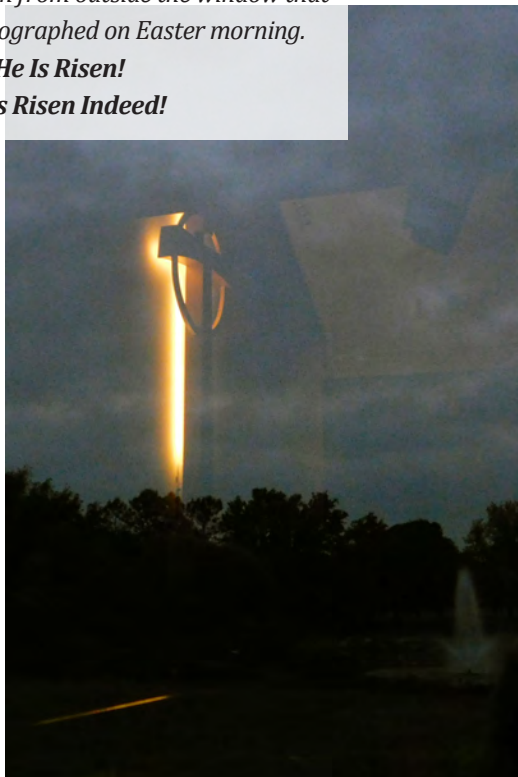
Mark got into contact with the Redlands Christian Migrant Association down in Wimauma and they were able to provide those sandwiches and cookies to the food-insecure folks they serve in their community. It's good to know that even in challenging times, God provides opportunities for us to love and serve others.

We were also able to donate some perishables to Presbyterian Church of Seffner to be used in their Meals on Wheels program.

Wishing you peace,  
Matt Shick, Acting Executive Director

*Our sanctuary's lighted cross appears to float in the clouds, in a reflection from outside the window that Emily Miller photographed on Easter morning.*

**He Is Risen!  
He Is Risen Indeed!**



*Come, my people,  
enter your chambers,  
and shut your doors behind you;  
hide yourselves for a little while until  
the fury has passed by.*

Isaiah 26:20

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Peace Presbyterian Church  
12705 State Road 64 East  
Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34212  
941-753-7778

[www.PEACEpcusa.com](http://www.PEACEpcusa.com)

Pastor: *Elizabeth Deibert*

Editor: *Diane Brinkmeyer*

Graphic Design: *Peter Miller*

Photos: *Eirinn Camphire, Amy Cerniglia,  
Emily Miller, Peter Miller, Toni  
Muirhead, Sally Schoeffel.*