

The Olive Branch

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JULY/AUGUST
2020

Peace Lutheran Church...

A Life-Changing Community, Sharing Christ's Love!

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Of Special Interest

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Pastors:

Senior Pastor—David Trexler
Cell Phone— (321)289-7115

E-mail:

office@peacelutheranpb.org

Office Hours: M-F 8:30am -12:30pm

Office Phone: (321)727-3131

Dial-A-Story: (321)727-1048

Websites:

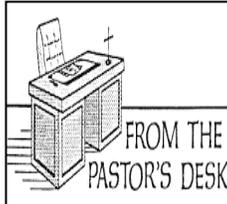
www.peacelutheranpb.org
www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb.org
Facebook @ Peace Lutheran Palm Bay

Staff:

Jacqui Robinson, Office Administrator
Cindy Wagman, Choirs
Lorry Held, Praise Band
Sally Cook, Pianist

Volunteer Staff:

Faye Schill, Treasurer
Curt Peterson, Youth Pastor
Paul Shwimer, Youth
Lori Search—Food Pantry
Charlene O'Brien—Food Pantry



Dear Friends through Christ:

My wife Sandy, claims I share too much. Maybe, but I believe in saying what a thing really is. I try to do it in love, even though I sometimes fall short. I hope no one is offended by this letter, but I feel compelled to talk about (with a Christian flare) what has become a dividing issue—wearing a mask.

I am what I call a **Republicrat**. I am not ultra conservative, nor am I a flaming liberal. In 1976, I voted for Jimmy Carter. I loved that man...still do, although he wasn't a great president. So in 1980 & 1984, I voted for Ronald Reagan, another good man. Then George H. W. Bush for the next two terms, even though he lost in 1992 to Bill Clinton. In 1996 I voted for Clinton for a second term because he got our budget in the black with no debt, instead of Bob Dole. Back to George W. Bush and the next two elections. 2008 was difficult, but I cast my vote for John McCain but in 2012, I switched to Barack Obama. I like what he did with health care and of my experience with pre-existing conditions. In 2020, for the first time in my life I did not vote. Didn't care for either candidate.

I vote my heart, not a party. I say all this to inform you, that I am neither left nor right, but Christian. I do not worship the flag or this country, even though I served both faithfully in the United States Marine Corps. I do love this country, yet I worship God alone and His only Son Jesus Christ and try to allow them to guide my decisions and actions.

I have 357 "friends," or people I know on Facebook. Probably about 30% refuse to wear masks and the reasons that they give, drive me absolutely nuts. The three main excuses they post are: 1) It is a violation of my constitutional rights. 2) It is a hoax orchestrated by the liberal socialists. 3) I'm not worried, God will protect. Most of the so-called friends, I thought were smart, but now I wonder. Allow me to break these reasons down while trying my best to say what a thing really is:

1) **A violation of my constitutional rights:** Maybe it is. Maybe it's not. I like to compare the argument to the implementation of the "seatbelt law." I can remember living in Louisville KY, and in 1994 the state made the wearing of a seatbelts mandatory. I was angry. How dare the government tell me what to do. After all, the only person it affected was me and no one else. However, after three \$125 fines and 9 points on my license, I reluctantly buckled up. Now it is automatic. Yes, the government does have the right to make laws to protect us, and wearing a mask will protect others and possibly yourself. Romans 13:1-3 says, ***"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; there is no authority except from God and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resist authority resists what God has appointed, for the government is God's servant for your good."*** Right now, basically everyone in our government, except for a few, are pleading for us to wear a mask. A simple mask is not a violation of our freedom.

continued on page 2

2) It is a hoax orchestrated by the liberal socialist: Maybe it is. Maybe it's not. But what if the politicians and scientists are telling us truth? This is the same argument used by many who do not believe in the Bible. Many say it is a hoax orchestrated by Church. Maybe it is. Maybe it's not. There are many things in life we do not have definitive answers to; like God and like this virus.

In my first year of seminary, a professor name Pete Pero, made this statement: **“There are only two possibilities regarding the claims found in the Bible, they are either true or not true. If they are not true then when you die, you won't know the difference. But, and this is a big but, if they are true, don't you think one should spend the time and investigate these claims. After all, the consequences could be eternal.”** What if the claims regarding this virus are true? There are very few opportunities to save the life of another. What if wearing a mask is one of those opportunities?

3) I'm not worried, God will protect: This excuse bothers me the most. Sure, God promises to protect, but in the paths He/She has chosen, and if one is not willing to sacrifice just a little, do you really believe God will protect you? Good luck. This line of thinking is a misunderstanding of how God works. Remember the Exodus story, where God is getting ready to send the final plague upon Egypt, killing the first born throughout the land? Did God simply tell the Hebrews, “Don't worry, you don't have to do a single thing, I'll take care of you?” No! God gave them instructions on how to survive this plague. “Take a lamb, make a sacrifice, mark your doorstep with the blood of the lamb and the angel of death will pass over.”

I sometimes wonder how many of the Hebrews thought this was a hoax? I mean, come on, how in the world is the blood of a lamb going to save me? I wonder how many thought they didn't need to go through the motions because they assume God would protect anyway? What if God has given us simple instructions to wash our hands, keep our distance and wear a simple mask? And then and only then She/He will protect?

I'm sorry to be so long winded and blunt, but the three reasons I just listed are simply excuses. I believe most people who don't wear mask is because they do not want to. And guess what? Neither do I. They hide my pretty face, they are hot, I can't hear people talk, I can't breathe. Simply put, I hate these stupid things, but if I can possibly save the life of one single person, it is worth it.

Wearing a mask should not be a divisive issue. It is about the only way our economy can reopen. Most top scientist and medical personal claim is that if everyone would social distance and wear a mask around others, this virus could be controlled in less than a month, so we could all get back to work, to eating out, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and most importantly, back to church. Isn't this what we all want?

One month ago, a single soul not wearing a mask infected 56 fellow parishioners at a Texas church. Eight of them ended up in the hospital, four in ICU and one died. I do not want that on my shoulders. Do you? Wearing a mask is a Christian statement, saying I care about You!

In Christian Love,

Pastor David Trexler



What a challenging, yet blessed time for our church! Things are slowly proceeding to a new “normal”, as we worship together with careful concern for social distancing and the safety of our congregation. Your church council held our first “routine” monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 9, spending most of our time discussing individual efforts to move PLC forward.

- ◆ We’re reviewing several options for selling the unused portions of our 17 acre property, based on estimates from several local realtors. Our challenge: ensuring that any option we recommend to the congregation is a good fit with our vision for PLC’s future.
- ◆ We received a proposal to build a Peace Community Garden in the playground previously used by our school. **Urban Hope Gardens & Farms LLC** establishes gardens at churches and other faith based organizations. The fresh produce would be distributed to the community through our Food Pantry. We’re considering whether and how to move forward on this interesting proposal.
- ◆ We’ve been approached by a pastor leading a large Latino church regarding the potential use of our sanctuary for Sunday services.
- ◆ We approved the expenditure of funds for the repainting of our church campus, inside and out.
- ◆ We’re reviewing and updating our constitution and the covenants that establish expectations for our paid church staff.
- ◆ We’ve begun routinely posting our council meeting minutes on the PLC website and in the narthex bulletin board. Read there about these initiatives and the other items before us. Most will require assistance from our congregation.

Prioritizing those efforts requiring our limited time and resources is a great challenge-but one that we face with faith, hope and prayers.

Tom Accola, PLC Council President



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Monday, October 5, 2020 at Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay. Ultrasound screenings to Identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or call 1-866-229-0469 to receive your discount and preferred appointment time.

Treasurer's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

I wish there were better news, but because of property and liability insurance payments, the sad fact that contributions from April to May decreased by \$2,714.44, and less monies collected from Use of Facilities, during May there was a deficit of \$6,544.22. During June we did better and were in the black for the month and under budget in expenses for the year.

I want to sincerely thank those that continue to support our ministries here at Peace Lutheran. The mail is collected daily for anyone that wishes to mail their contribution.

COVID19 hasn't gone away. We worship about 25 – 35 people each service. We continue to sanitize the sanctuary pews (wood parts), doors and other handles between services, no one is shaking hands or sharing the peace of the Lord, the offering and noisy offering is not being passed, and we have plenty of hand sanitizer to make everyone feel confident that it's safe to come back to service. Many of us wear masks (Yes, it's uncomfortable!) and we sit at least 6 feet apart to make everyone feel safe. I feel this is a small act we can do to show how much we care for one another and to worship together. I would hate to lose any one of you because we failed to follow recommended safety guidelines. I pray for everyone's continued health.

I pray and trust God to see us through this crisis and strengthen our faith. Please keep Peace Lutheran Church's brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.

Your sister in Christ,
Faye Schill, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org
office 321-727-3131

Treasurer's Report of General Funds

MAY/JUNE 2020

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$13,112.58	\$17,485.96	\$101,395.45	\$102,400.02
Use of Facilities	\$2,000.00	\$2,410.00	\$16,479.00	\$19,950.00
Total Income	\$15,112.58	\$19,895.96	\$117,874.45	\$122,350.02
Expenses	\$21,656.80	\$17,162.50	\$118,830.17	\$122,350.02

Excess Expenses for May 2020 are: \$6,544.22

Excess Income for June 2020 is \$2,733.46

The General Fund account is used for regular expenses (FPL, utilities, salaries, lawn care, insurance, mortgage, etc.)

Did you know? Instead of writing multiple checks for individual contributions like the Children's Hunger Project, the Food Pantry, etc., you only have to write one check. Simply designate the breakdown of your giving in the check's memo area or on the envelope itself. "FP" for Food Pantry, "CHP" for Children's Hunger Project, and so on.

Thank you for your contributions!



MCVAY, Brian & Joy (22) 07/04
 SOUCY, Jack & Nancy (42) 07/08
 ZRUTSKIE, Terry & Jude (57) 07/20
 AMBROSE, Christopher & Heather (21) 07/24
 HOFFMAN, Don & Sue (56) 07/25
 WILSON, Jack & Judy (56) 07/25



MOLESKI, Debra & Charlie (41) 08/04
 RING, James & Katherine (18) 08/10
 YANTZ, Dennis & Bobbi (38) 08/14
 SCHILL, Larry & Faye (39) 08/22
 SWARR, Peter & Ann (33) 08/29



SIENKIEWICZ, Allison 07/06
 CALVIN, Tim 07/07
 WITTER, Jerrold 07/07
 YANTZ, Dennis 07/13
 HARVEY, Isabella 07/14
 FLAHERTY, David 07/18
 BAKER, Mark 07/20
 ACCOLA, Thomas 07/21
 SANDBERG, Emma 07/22
 BISTARKEY, Marion 07/23
 GRICE, Mark 07/25
 JAMES, Ashlyn 07/25
 JESSWEIN, Elisabeth 07/29



ELLIOTT, Sylvia 07/31
 DOWE, Pat 08/01
 MARCUS, David 08/03
 SANDBERG, Beverly 08/03

ZRUTSKIE, Jude 08/03
 ARNDT, David 08/04
 DOYLE, Brent 08/04
 ROWE, Mary 08/05
 GOSSETT, Molly 08/06
 RAMSEY, Lindsay 08/06
 RAMSEY, Maggie 08/07
 MCVAY, Jackson 08/08
 WHITLOCK, Kayla 08/10
 WHITLOCK, Gary 08/12
 ARNDT, Kristina 08/16
 PETERSON, Curt 08/17
 LOTT, Susan 08/20
 PELLECCIA, Henrietta 08/20
 RODDY, Diane 08/22
 HARVEY, Veronica 08/24
 COTTON, Jessica 08/25
 MADDEN, Stephanie 08/25
 KOWING, Kristin 08/26
 RAHAMAN, Bibi 08/27
 CRAIN, Barbara 08/30
 WAGMAN, Dan 08/30
 FOSS, Lucille 08/31
 SCHOEDEL, Alexander 08/31

Susan Hildebrand Rick Pellecchia
 Gwen Newberry Tim Calvin
 Lori Deaton David Brunner, Sr.
 V.B. & Lucinda Johnson Robert B. Elliott
 Ryan Dasinger Ann Beardslee
 Mary Norwood Maria Rodriguez
 Larry Cannen Marlene Eggert
 Jeanette Peterson Don Hoffman
 Gloria Jones Betty Sheller

Rebecca Leinthall
 Maryanne Sprengle
 Bob Rusco
 Tonita Rodriguez
 Emily Gossett
 Mark & Cathy Butler
 Ann Mease
 Theresa Bradley
 Tom Flanagan

Chris Gibson
 Gary Gossett, Jr.
 June Trotter
 Ron Nelson
 Frank Thompson





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	29 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	30 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	3 July 4th Holiday Observed - Office Closed! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	4 Happy July 4th! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
5 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	6 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	7 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	8 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	10 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	11 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
12 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	13 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	14 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Council Meeting	15 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	17 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	18 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
19 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	20 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	21 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	22 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	24 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
26 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	27 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	28 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	29 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	31 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA



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CDC Guidance for Faith Based Organizations

PLC leadership continues to carefully review current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for faith based organizations. We have temporarily stopped the passing the peace, and passing offering plates from our services. There is plenty of space for worshippers to spread out. As we continue to social distance in our sanctuary, here are CDC common prevention tips to help stop the spread of COVID-19 as we worship together:

- **Maintain good hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**
- **If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, tissues, and no-touch trash cans. (We have hand sanitizer readily available for your use)**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in a no-touch trash can.**
- **Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. We do encourage for you to wear masks in our sanctuary, please.**
- **Do not place protective masks on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.**

Thanks to all for your dedication to Christ and devotion to PLC!



Bits & Pieces

Check us out on Facebook @ Peace Lutheran Church



Give us a LIKE and get updates, spiritual messages, events and any changes.

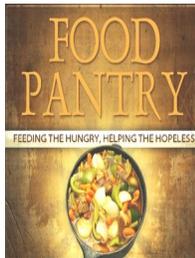
Or visit us on our website
www.peacelutheranpb.org



Please help us keep our list of military personnel up-to-date!
 Call or e-mail the office with any changes in status, rank, or location! Thank you!

E.J. Alcario, Iraq	USN FC3 Stephen Weaver, USS Dewey
John Bedford, Iraq	
Kristen Hall AF, Iraq	Navy Chief Sean Patrick Goguen, Norfolk, VA
Capt. Brian Nailing, Co. Ft. Hood, TX	1st Lieut. Tanner Johnson—Army, E. Africa
Maj. AD Dennis Peoples, Rock Island Arsenal, IL	USN Tyler J. Azevedo—USS Harry S. Truman
Cpt, Nathan Schill, Ft. Jackson, SC	

Our Food Pantry is always in need of donations of either food or financial donations to support this much needed ministry. Our community is flooded with people looking for help, and we are grateful that as a church, we can help meet the need, anyway we can. Your generous donations will allow us to continue to help them and together, we can see our community get stronger!



Our pantry is open on: **Tuesday's—9AM -11AM.**
 We service zip codes **32905** and **32907.**

Thank you to everyone who has been donating to the food pantry. It truly makes a difference in our community.

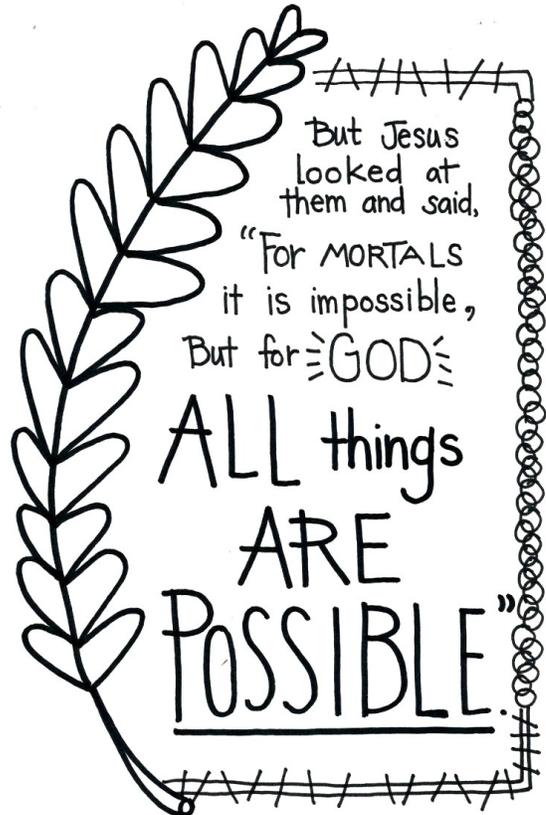


Jesus says in Matthew 25, "For I was hungry and you gave me food... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Where do you buy groceries, gas, prescriptions? What restaurants do you like? Where do you purchase clothing or things for around the house? A couple weeks ago, Peace began a program called Scrip. Simply and I mean simply, purchase the cards following worship or order whatever you want for the following week. That's it. 100% of the proceeds will go toward our food pantry in feeding the poor.

We are going to shop no matter what. We might as well serve the Lord in the process. I love the program because it helps me think more about God. I don't always do that when I use my debit or credit card. When I'm out having a meal with family or friends, shopping at the mall with my wife, doing some work around the house, and I go to pay the bill with my Scrip card, I find myself lifting up a word of thanksgiving for being able to enjoy the blessings given by my Creator.

Give it try. See how you feel.



Did you know that every time you order from Amazon you can make a contribution to Peace Lutheran? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Peace Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you.



When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to **Peace Lutheran Church**.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will then be asked to pick your charitable organization. Make sure to pick **Peace Lutheran Church in Palm Bay, FL**. You may also want to share with your children and grandchildren as well when making their purchases on Amazon.com.

It may be helpful to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

Peace Lutheran Church
1801 Port Malabar Blvd N.E.
Palm Bay, FL 32905

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch
Dated Material – July/August 2020

NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
MELBOURNE FL
PERMIT 144

Phone: (321) 727-3131
Dial-A-Story: (321)727-1048
Email: office@peacelutheranpb.org
Website: www.peacelutheranpb.org

Return service requested

Senior Pastor: David Trexler

Youth Pastor: Curt Peterson

Worship Service

9:00AM & 11:00AM



We Serve

Altar Guild—Set up and prepare for communion each week, usually serving one month at a time; more people are needed.

Worship Servants—Sunday Worship Assistants and Communion Assistants are needed.

Office Helpers—Those who help with mailings, preparing Welcome Packets, etc.

Chancel Choir—Sing to the Lord at 11am each Sunday, practice 7pm Wednesday evenings.

Bell Choir—Call Cindy Wagman to learn more about our choirs 676-3849.

Peace Band—Practice Sunday mornings at 9:00AM.. Come and try out.

Money Counters—Teams of two people working for one month at a time. Call church office if interested.

In the Nursery—Betty Sheller is our Nursery Attendant in the nursery for your children. If you are a parent leaving your children in the nursery during services you are welcome to join with them in caring for our little ones during worship.

Property/Grounds—There is always plenty of work to be done here. Please contact Steve Barnett.

Projectionists Needed—People that are in the projection room Sunday morning for our Sunday presentations. Please sign up in the projection room.

Panera Bread Pick-up—Each Friday evening people are needed to go to Hammock Landings to get the goodies for Sunday morning Café Peace. Cindy Wagman at 676-3849

Call Committee—Our team visits people who are in the hospital, nursing homes, and who are homebound. See Terry Neumann for more information.

Please call the office to be a servant for the Lord by taking on one or more of these opportunities.
(321)727-3131

