Dear Friends -

From September 6 through October 4, congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will begin observing a Season of Peace, a four-week spiritual journey designed to deepen the pursuit of peace in your life, relationships, community and the world.

The Season of Peace is a chance for us, sheltered in place as we are, to reflect on our identity as peacemakers and consider anew what we can do to promote peace not only in this unusual time, but when we are back to more normal social interactions.

The Season of Peace is an important partnership between congregations of the PCUSA and our peacemaking efforts as a denomination.

The Season of Peace will focus on four different themes culminating in the celebration of World Communion Sunday on October 4th. We have created resources for you as individuals and families who want to embark on the four-week pilgrimage. There will be daily devotions on Facebook; a weekly blog on each of the themes; an adult study, “The Things That Make For Peace” and a Children’s/Family interactive study called “Lessons From The Table” teaching about the Lord’s Supper. The blog and studies will be available on the website.

The daily reflections will focus on practicing peace within (Sept. 6-12); peace in relationships (Sept. 13-19); peace in community (Sept. 20-26) and wholistic peace (Sept. 27-Oct. 4).

“Each daily reflection offers insight and connection between Presbyterians, inviting the Spirit to strengthen and support us in shared life and ministry, as we prepare to give our Peace & Global Witness Offering, that will be dedicated on October 4th at World Communion Sunday worship.

The celebration of this Season of Peace is aligned with a commitment to break down the barriers that divide, promoting peacemaking and social justice in a church that takes seriously its role in addressing racism in church, in culture and in our community. During this season we will be using the newest addition to the PCUSA Book of Confessions, The Confession of Belhar, to focus our affirmations of faith in Worship.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Our congregation will retain 25% of this Offering to do peacemaking in the local
community, 25% will be distributed through Mid councils for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

I hope that this time for reflection on peacemaking will encourage you to participate generously in the peacemaking work of our denomination through the Peace and Global Witness Offering and provide you with a meaningful experience in discipleship.

Lorne Bostwick, Interim/Transitional Pastor