

Mark Your Calendar...

Now through July 15: Online Family Bible Adventure. See information on page 7 or go to <https://www.piedmontparksda.org/familybibleadventure>.

Wednesdays Conference Call Prayer Meeting - Check out graphic on this page

TBD - Bean Auction fundraiser for Families with Special Needs ministry

Check out the playlist schedule on page 11.

Sabbath Schools Online until further notice:

Adult

* www.facebook.com/piedmontparksda

* www.youtube.com/piedmontparkchurch

Beginner vist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmR8SzgNRlc&feature=youtu.be>

Primary check each week at <https://www.piedmontparksda.org/>

Earliteen check each week at <https://www.piedmontparksda.org/>



Nicole Houdek shared a resource for families with special needs: There is an abundance of ideas, activities, Sabbath School options (mostly Gracelink), etc. at the following link:

<https://www.childmin.org/virtual-resources>

**Conference Call
PRAYER
MEETING
(617) 829-6816**



Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Newsletter

Our Vision: To encourage a closer walk with God and greater involvement in His Ministries in the Lincoln Nebraska area through the medium of A Walk in the Park.

Our Mission: With God’s leading, we will reach out to our church family, sharing stories of hope, encouraging all, and promoting active involvement in the various ministries of Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church

How Long O Lord?

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

June 2020

In this issue...

- How Long? 1
- Piedmont Giving..... 2
- All I Can Do is Pray 3
- Noble Thoughts..... 5
- Be Kind..... 5
- Church Services..... 6
- Family Bible Adventure 7
- Drive Through Prayer..... 8
- Remote Sabbath School 8
- Golf Fellowship..... 8
- Bush Removal..... 9
- 20/20 Vision 10
- Shepherd Ministry 10
- YouTube Events..... 11
- Corona Virus 11
- Mark Your Calendar 12

How long? That has been a question that I have been asked a lot this year.

*Pastor, how long until we have services at the church?
Pastor, how long until we can have services without restrictions?*

Or - Daddy, how long until I can see my friends?

As a pastor I like to have answers. As an adult I like knowing what will happen and what to do. And yet, this spring and summer have simply been a time of uncertainty and a time of questioning. I don’t know about you, but I am not a fan. Maybe you have been like me lately and have been asking the Lord in your prayers, “*How long are we going to be living like this?*” But when I read the Bible, I find that question of “*How long?*” is a reoccurring theme in God’s word.

David wrote so many amazing psalms. One of his most powerful is Psalm 13. Four times in that short song David asks God, “*How long?*” So that question is an honest human question and God is okay with including it in His word to us. The Israelites asked God how long when they were making their way through the wilderness to the Promised Land. Then again, they asked God how long when they were waiting for the Babylonian captivity to end so they could go home.

The Old Testament itself is built around the question of how long as humanity waits for God to send the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15), or the messiah, to come and help them. And the New Testament ends with the question hanging in the air - How long until Jesus comes back.

[Continued on page 2](#)

How Long O Lord? - Continued from page 1

Revelation even symbolically depicts martyrs asking God how long until He will judge.

Perhaps it helps to know that we aren't the only ones who have wrestled with the question How long. Maybe it helps to know that this isn't the first time God's people have wondered what was going on and how long would the difficulty last. Maybe it doesn't.

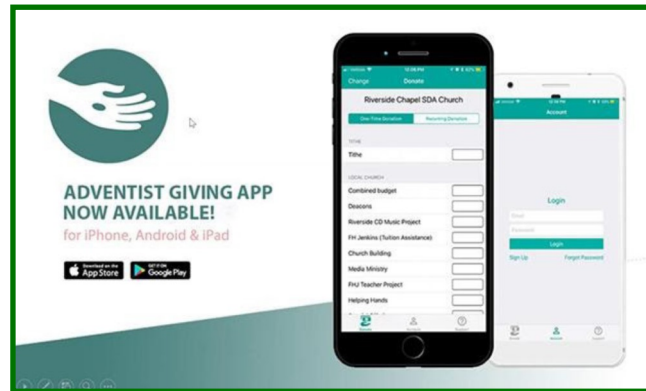
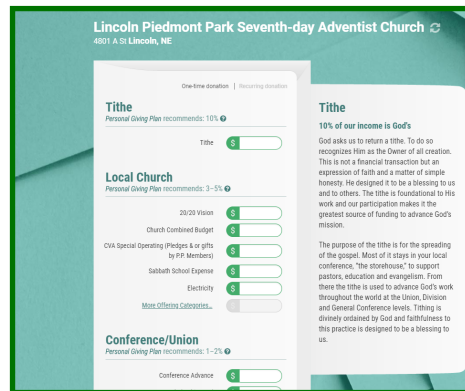
But what I have found in God's word that does help in the "How Longs" of life is that those times can help us trust God more. When I have all the answers and know just what to do, life doesn't take much faith in God. But it's in the difficult times, it's in the questioning times, that God teaches me to trust Him, even in the darkness. David learned to trust God in the "how long" time. That is how he was able to end Psalm 13 by saying, "But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord because He has dealt bountifully with Me."

May God help us to trust Him during the questioning time. May we continue to sing, for our God is good and He will see us through this time. He will get us to the other side of the how long.

Piedmont Giving

By Vanessa Schaecher

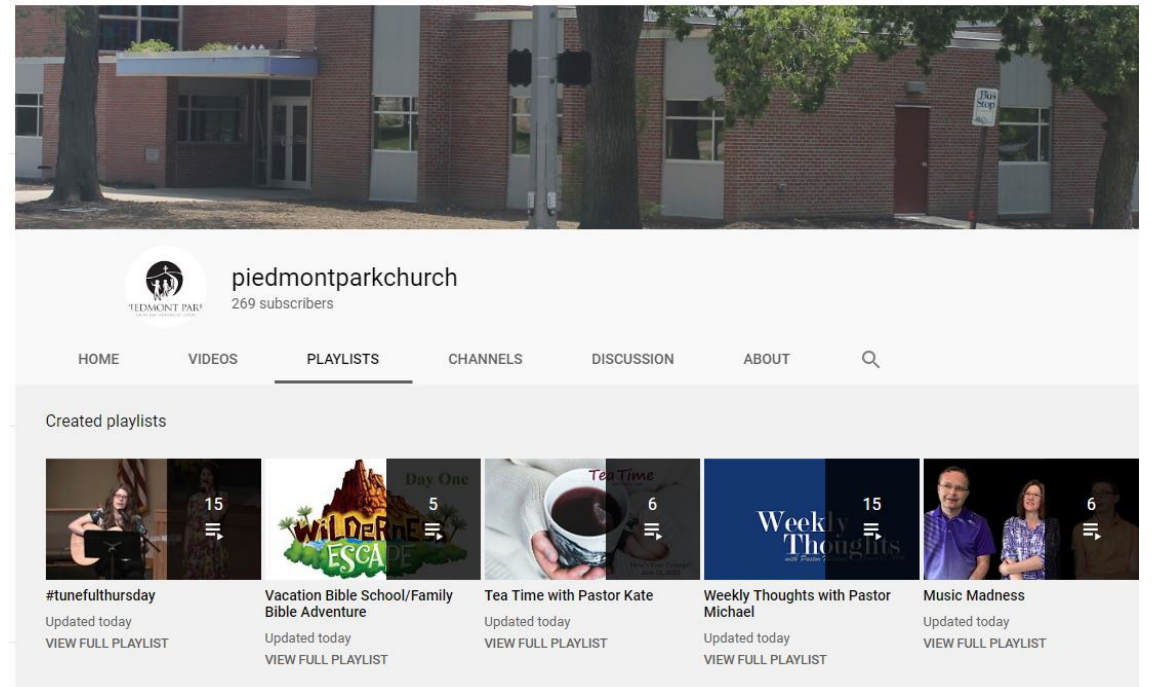
Thank you for continuing to remember Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in your giving. Your generosity helps us continue ministry during this unique time in history. A reminder that you can easily give your Tithe and Offerings online by visiting our website at www.piedmontparksda.org and clicking on Adventist Giving. If you are attending church on Sabbath morning, you can give by placing your tithe envelope in the offering plate provided. During the week we also have tithe envelopes available at the church in the box near the front door (A street). If you have questions, contact the church office for more information at piedmontparkSDA@gmail.com or 402-489-1344



YouTube Series

By Vanessa Schaecher

We are excited to have several weekly series continuing on our YouTube Channel! These include **Music Madness with the Halfhills** on Sunday evenings, **Tea Time with Pastor Kate** on Monday evenings, **Weekly Thoughts with Pastor Michael** on Wednesdays, and **Tuneful Thursday #tunefulthursday** on Thursdays. These weekly series are a great way to stay connected and inspired throughout the week. Special playlists have been created on our YouTube page so you can catch all the episodes from start to finish. Simply go to www.youtube.com/piedmontparkchurch/playlists to see the listings!



For our current statement and plan regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit

<https://www.piedmontparksda.org/covid-19>.

20/20 Vision

By Ray F. Daniel, 20/20 Vision Representative

We're in the last stages of our 20/20 Vision Plan. A key portion of this plan was to have 13 "Bring Ben" Sabbaths. The goal is for at least 100 families, members or guests to bring \$100 on those days totaling \$10,000.00 per time. Bring Ben 11, June 9, 2020, came short of the goal, but was a helpful total of \$7,044.51. This was very good for the present conditions.

We've spent \$444,799.46 so far and have received \$415,200.93 in contributions. The \$29,598.53 difference has been met from our \$200,000.00 loan. We've incurred \$7,293.95 in interest on that loan to date. When it became clear we wouldn't need the full \$200,000.00, the church board returned \$100,000.00 to the loaning organization several months ago, so we're only paying interest on \$100,000.00.

A \$100,000 donor challenge is continuing to be matched with \$70,207.61 matched to date. With the help of the next two Bring Ben Days it should be fully matched in 2020.

When 20/20 Vision was begun in late 2017, we had no idea what 2020 would be like. No idea that the world would be engulfed in a deadly pandemic. How thankful we can be that we accomplished what we did before it struck and that we're near the finish line.

Shepherd Ministry

By Ray F. Daniel, Shepherd Coordinator

Some Shepherds are performing incredible ministry providing real blessings to their flock and themselves. It has been especially meaningful during the current health crisis while we've been unable to worship together. We can only hope this ministry will continue and strengthen.

A Walk in the Park is available under the **Newsletter** tab on the **Piedmont Park** website at www.piedmontparksda.org, or on its own tab at <https://www.piedmontparksda.org/a-walk-in-the-park-quarterly-newsletter>. Printed copies will be handed out to members each quarter and are also available at the Welcome Desk.



All I Can Do is Pray

By Laura Daw

This pandemic has brought out so many people who are ready and willing to be of use. If you listen to the news, you hear about first responders, hospital staff, and even public services working through the time when others are told to stay at home. I've heard stories about people who have used their closed businesses to do things like make hand sanitizer.

In my own circle I see people like:

- My daughter Britaini who works at MedExpress
- My husband, Stanley, who keeps the semi-trucks in good repair, so they can get things like food and toilet paper to the stores
- Tammy and Darrel Daniel who drive those trucks to keep America fed
- My sister, Beth Callins, who spends countless hours sewing masks and paying for the supplies from her own pocket
- Charlene and Jim Hawkins and Crystal Schaecher and all the other wonderful people who made sure VBS happened this year
- Renee Schaecher and Melissa Young who constantly encourage their shepherd group
- Pastor Michael and his family who keeps providing sermons of encouragement, drive through prayer service, and of course the Sunday night hymns
- Pastor Katelyn also providing sermons and encouragement and drive through prayer service
- All the people who have provided special music and scripture reading
- Vanessa Schaecher producing videos so that we can still keep in touch and celebrate the Sabbath with our sermons
- Ray and Dustan Daniel and Tom Toews who provide adult Sabbath School
- Lena Toews, Cathy Culver, Marsha Hornby, Misty Wehling, and many more who provide videos for Children's Sabbath Schools

It makes me think of the gifts of the spirit in 1 Corinthians 12 (NIV).

[Continued on page 4](#)



Pictures: Beth Callins and some of her masks

All I Can Do is Pray - Continued from page 3

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[1] and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

I wondered where I fit into this. I spent some time this year feeling very discouraged and that everyone seemed to be doing something except me. I have been holed up in my home as a “high risk.” My doctor didn’t even want me to let my grandchildren come closer than six feet from me while I am babysitting. Imagine trying to change a diaper from six feet away. I told her that if I caught the virus and died, the last thing I want is for my grandchildren to remember me pushing them away.

Putting that aside, even in seclusion I’ve found the place the Lord has given me. I ordered Sabbath School props from Amazon and am currently conducting Sabbath School for my very unruly class of grandchildren. And I can pray. I cannot go out and heal the sick. I can’t help with the recorded church services. I can’t drive or maintain a truck, and when I thought about making masks, I realized I’d never get them done with rambunctious kids to care for. I also have trouble seeing things like tiny holes for threading needles. But I can pray. I pray for the sick. I pray for their families. I pray for all the first responders and the people who keep our community safe, healthy, and both physically and spiritually fed.

I know more prayer warriors out there, and I’m glad we can do our small part to help our nation and our churches through this time of trouble.

Do you have something to share in the next newsletter? We’d love to read it!

Email it to piedmontinspiration@gmail.com, or call Laura at 402-217-6369.

Bush Removal

By Vanessa Schaecher

On a very hot June Sunday, a great team of folks (Robert, Randy, Bryan, Jason, Tony & Dustan) spent several hours working in the West parking lot cutting all of the bushes lining that parking lot down to the stumps. Future work will be done to completely remove the stumps and roots. We appreciate the care that Piedmont Park members take of our church and property.



Drive-Through Prayer Services

By Vanessa Schaecher

On June 6 the Piedmont Park parking lot and Sanctuary sprung to life for a few hours! Pastor Michael & Pastor Katelyn spent a couple of hours praying with members during a Drive-thru Prayer Event. Everyone expressed how good it was to see each other in person after so many weeks apart. Right after the prayer event a small, invitation only, group gathered in the Sanctuary to witness and celebrate two special baptisms.



Dayna & Kelly have been active in ministry at Piedmont Park for several years, especially in the young adult ministry. We are so happy for these sisters and their decision to continue following Jesus with their lives and enter into baptism. We look forward to seeing where God leads their footsteps in the future!



Remote Sabbath School

By Ray F. Daniel

During the time of no public worship at the church, Sabbath School has been made available via the internet. The adult lesson has been taught by Dr. Tom Toews, Pastor Ray Daniel and his son Dustan Daniel. Since the worship service has resumed at the church, it has moved from 10 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to give members time to get to the church. This will continue for the foreseeable future for the benefit of those who choose to continue to worship at home.



Golf Fellowship

By Ray F. Daniel, Commissioner, Whole In One Golf Fellowship

The 2020 “Whole In One Golf Fellowship” season scheduled to begin in May was delayed due to the health crisis. The first outing occurred June 14 at Holmes Golf Course. Stanley Daw sported a beautiful new driver that helped him hit the ball even further! The next outing is July 12 at Mahoney Golf Course. Three more will follow, one each month through October.

Be Kind

By Carol Rees

In 1962 I was in the 10th grade. One day while in a history class, I was horrified because the teacher stood in front of a black girl telling her that she was incapable of learning because she was lazy and black! I just couldn't believe a teacher would say something like that. When the teacher walked away, I turned to that girl and said she should not listen to that mean old woman. After the recent deaths and riots, people are asking what they can do to change these terrible behaviors. The answer is difficult. We as persons can modify our behaviors treating others as we would want to be treated. We can teach our children to treat others as people.

On Sunday morning, a few weeks ago, I saw a group of black people who were marching. In the group there was a man with a baseball bat. People in the group gathered around him and in a kind way, removed the bat and hugged him and prayed with him. That day, he made a better choice.

All these things help move us in the right direction, but this takes time and some of us never have that kind of opportunity presented to us. So, for the impatient, we can vote, we can write to the editors of newspapers to encourage a review of police behaviors, and go back to peace officers. Always insist on proper behavior from our public officials. We can join groups that share those goals.

For some, this does not seem to be fast enough or it seems like no changes have been made. I agree progress seems to be slow, but people of color can more easily vote, can hold public office, and have greater opportunities than before.

If we don't want to continue seeing those behaviors, we must be a good people who step out and do something when the opportunity presents itself.

Colin Noble – Noble Thoughts

Looking for things to do on Sabbath? Check out these links:

<https://noblethoughtsdotblog.wordpress.com/2019/03/15/50-things-to-do-on-a-sabbath/>

<https://noblethoughtsdotblog.wordpress.com/2020/03/17/50-more-things-to-do-on-a-sabbath/>

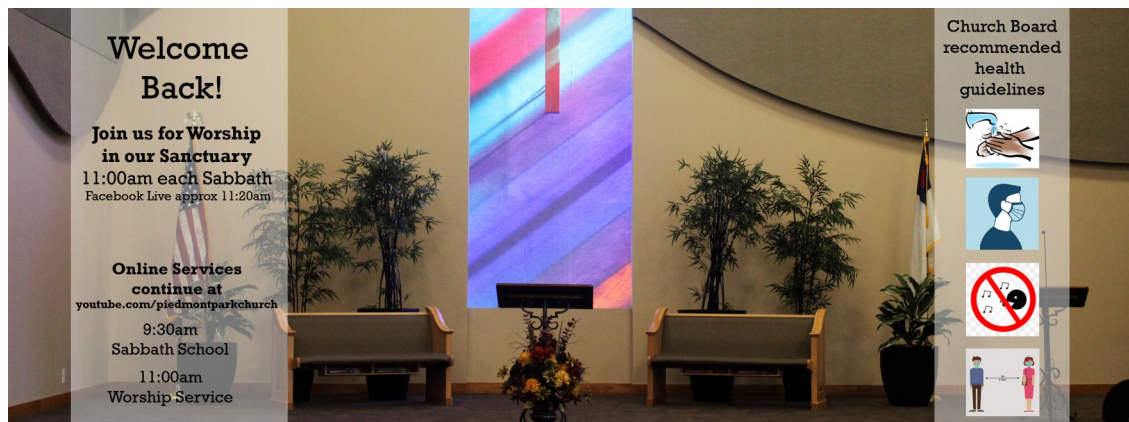
Church Services and Sabbath School

By Vanessa Schaecher

Church services began meeting again in our Sanctuary on June 20 and will continue at 11:00am each Sabbath morning with the sermon being livestreamed on Facebook at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Online Sabbath School will continue online at 9:30 a.m. and Online Church Service will be at 11:00 a.m. - both available on our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/piedmontparkchurch

For those attending in person in the Sanctuary, please follow the recommendations from the Church Board as they have been advised by Adventist Risk Management and the city. Please wash hands, wear a mask, practice social distancing, and stay home if you are feeling sick or are in a high risk category. We are excited to meet together again in person, but no one should feel compelled to return to the church building until you personally feel ready to do so. Let's do all we can to support and protect our church family as we continue the restarting process with understanding and patience. Letters from Pastor Michael containing more information can be found on the church website at <http://www.piedmontparksda.org/covid-19>



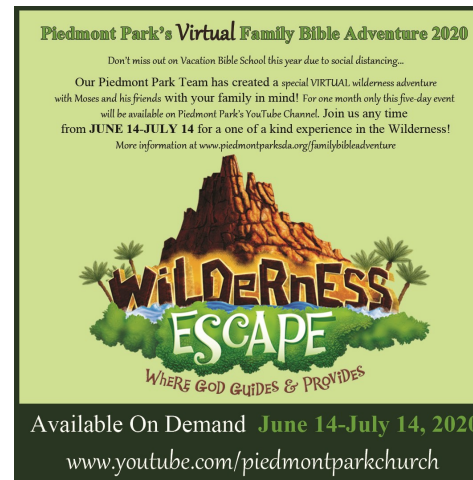
Family Bible Adventure

By Vanessa Schaecher

Don't miss out on Vacation Bible School this year due to social distancing... Piedmont Park's Family Bible Adventure Team has created a special VIRTUAL wilderness adventure with Moses and his friends with your family in mind! **For one month only**, this five-episode series will be available **On Demand** on Piedmont Park's YouTube Channel. Join us any time from JUNE 14-JULY 14 for a one-of-a-kind experience in the Wilderness - Where God Guides and Provides!

This Virtual VBS is available anywhere in the world where viewers can watch YouTube videos! The only supplies needed are items commonly found in most households. Keep your remote (or mouse) handy so you can stop the video at the suggested times to participate in family discussions, games, crafts, and activities.

For more information go to www.piedmontparksda.org/familybibleadventure . You can view a SNEAK PEEK at <https://youtu.be/LUGCnpCyafQ>.



Shepherd Ministry

By Ray F. Daniel, Shepherd Coordinator

Some Shepherds are performing incredible ministry providing real blessings to their flock and themselves. It has been especially meaningful during the current health crisis while we've been unable to worship together. We can only hope this ministry will continue and strengthen.