



Tidings of Peace

October

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

2026

From the Pastor

Lessons Along the Way I: *God our Fortress* (Dubrovnik, Croatia)

My wife and I had the wonderful opportunity to join our dear college friends on a two+ week adventure cruising along the Mediterranean sea- from Croatia, through Montenegro, Greece and Turkey- nine stops in all. I'll be sharing with you some photos of our trip and a lesson from each stop over the next nine months.



(From top left to right: Aaron and Jessica Guest, Krista and Me, Matt and Merideth Randles enjoying our fellowship at the old Dubrovnik harbor).

We flew from Seattle through London to the medieval city of Dubrovnik in Croatia. Our dear friends Matt and Merideth, who hosted this amazing trip (all expenses paid I might add!) met us in a lovely apartment overlooking the old walled city where we stayed for a few days until we boarded our cruise ship.

In this Months' Edition

From the Pastor	1-3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Financial Report	4
Small Groups	5
Children's Bible Classes	6
Adult Bible Classes	7
Mission Memo	8-10
B & G FALL CLEANUP	10
Calendar	11
Sermon Plans and Officers	12

The **Old City of Dubrovnik**, on Croatia's southern Adriatic coast, is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval walled cities. Known historically as **Ragusa**, it developed into an independent maritime republic and became an important Mediterranean trading center, especially from the **14th through 17th centuries**.



(The Walled city of Dubrovnik.)

The heart of the city is enclosed by massive **stone defensive walls**, parts of which date to the Middle Ages. Rising above the Adriatic and encircling the old city, they have stood for centuries as a visible reminder of the need for protection in an uncertain world. Generations of people lived, worked, worshiped, and raised their families within those walls, knowing that beyond them there were often very real dangers.

The image of a fortified city would have been equally familiar to the writers of Scripture. Again and again, the Psalms use the language of walls, towers, strongholds, and fortresses to describe the security God's people find in Him.

David declares:

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
—Psalm 18:2

The point is not that God's people will never experience trouble. David certainly did. His life included war, betrayal, grief, danger, and seasons when his enemies seemed to surround him. Yet in the midst of those circumstances, David had learned where his ultimate security was found. It was not in the walls of Jerusalem, the strength of his army, or even his position as king. **The Lord Himself was his fortress.**

Psalm 46 expresses the same confidence:

“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way...”
—Psalm 46:1–2

Notice that the Psalm does not say that because God is our refuge, the earth will never give way. Instead, it says that **even if the earth gives way, we need not fear**. Biblical faith does not rest upon the expectation that God will keep every difficult thing from happening to us. It rests upon the promise that nothing that happens can separate God's people from Him.

That distinction matters.

We build a great many “walls” around our lives. We save money because we want financial security. We purchase insurance against unexpected losses. We care for our health. We lock our doors. We make plans for the future. There is nothing wrong with any of these things. Wisdom calls us to prepare responsibly.

But none of our walls are ultimately impregnable.

Health can change. Financial circumstances can change. Relationships can change. Nations and institutions that seem permanent can change. The things upon which we are tempted to build our sense of security can disappear remarkably quickly.

Dubrovnik itself bears witness to that truth. Its impressive walls provided extraordinary protection through many centuries, but even they could not guarantee that those within them would never experience suffering or war. Human fortresses, however strong, always have their limits.

The Christian possesses a refuge of an entirely different kind.

Our confidence rests ultimately in Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, Christ has dealt with the greatest enemies we face—not merely difficult circumstances, but sin, judgment, and death itself. Those who belong to Christ have a security that no earthly disaster can take away.

That is why Paul can ask in Romans 8, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” He does not mean that Christians will have no enemies or troubles. In the very same passage he speaks of tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, danger, and even death. Yet none of these things can separate the believer from “the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).

The walls of Dubrovnik are impressive precisely because they look so strong. Standing beneath them reminds us how deeply human beings long for a place of safety.

Scripture tells us that such a place truly exists—but it is not ultimately found behind walls.

It is found in God Himself.

Whatever uncertainties may surround us, Christians can confess with David, “**The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.**” And because our refuge is the Lord, we can face an uncertain world with confidence—not because nothing will shake us, but because the One in whom we have taken refuge cannot be shaken.

After a few days of exploring this beautiful walled city and surrounding area, we boarded our cruise ship, the *Regatta*, and set sail down the Adriatic.

Until our next port of call, may the Lord bless you with the refuge of His peace.

Pastor Aaron



(The Regatta, our cruise ship on this voyage.)



(our stateroom for the trip- with our veranda)



(The streets of Dubrovnik)

October Birthdays

1st Aaron Beaty
 7th Page Smith
 8th Valli Ganser
 8th Scott Dickson
 9th Phil Grant
 14th Sandy Deatherage
 17th Marjorie Devine
 22nd Cheryl Paletz
 27th Landon Beaty
 31st Betty Shaw

October Anniversaries

Stewardship & Finance Committee

August 2026

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$18,148.48
Operating Expenses:.....	<u>\$15,345.86</u>
Monthly Net:.....	\$2,802.62
YTD /Net:.....	\$9,694.39
Checking 8/31/26:.....	\$62,066.43
Money Market 8/31/26:.....	\$34,380.47
Edward Jones CD 8/31/26:...	\$20,223.87
Edward Jones MM 8/31/26:	\$12,694.69
TOTAL 8/31/26:.....	\$129,365.46

Expenses in August beyond regular operations were: Presbytery askings, General Assembly askings, building repairs & maintenance, Missions, pulpit supply, Organ Fund, and Hand bell Fund quarterly disbursements.

-Nathaly Todd -Treasurer

JOIN A SMALL GROUP

Small Groups Are Starting Up Again!

September brings the return of many of our regular ministries, and we are excited to begin another season of **weekly sermon-based small groups**!

Our small groups are designed to help us take what we hear from God's Word on Sunday morning and carry it into the rest of the week. Each week, groups gather to revisit the Sunday sermon, talk through the Scripture together, consider how it applies to our lives, and spend time encouraging and praying for one another.

There is something valuable about moving from **hearing the Word together on Sunday to talking about and living out the Word together during the week**. Small groups give us a place to ask questions, share insights, develop deeper relationships, and help one another grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Information and sign-ups will begin Sunday, September 6, and continue for the following few weeks. Most groups are expected to begin meeting during the **week of September 7**, although individual groups may begin a little later depending upon their schedules.

Watch for announcements and additional details on Sunday mornings regarding available groups, meeting times, locations, and leaders.

Whether you have participated in a small group before or have never tried one, I encourage you to consider joining us this fall. You don't need to be a Bible expert, and you don't need to have all the answers. Simply come ready to listen, participate, get to know some fellow believers, and grow together in Christ.

The Christian life was never intended to be lived alone. God has placed us within the body of Christ so that we might worship together, learn together, encourage one another, pray for one another, and bear one another's burdens.

As we continue our Sunday journey through the **Gospel of Luke**, our small groups will give us another opportunity each week to reflect upon what God is teaching us through His Word and to ask an important question:

How should what we heard on Sunday shape the way we live on Monday?

We hope you'll join a group this fall!

Sign-ups begin September 6. Watch for details on Sundays!



PRESCHOOL-1st GRADE: To start, Geri Coker will lead the little ones through God's Creation story. Class will meet in the nursery.

ELEMENTARY: Vicki Zeller will be guiding the older grade school children through the stories in Luke. Class will meet in the upstairs classroom.

YOUTH AND ADULTS: The high school grades will be joining the adult study in the Fireside Room as Pastor Aaron facilitates R.C. Sproul's work on "The Last Days According to Jesus."

Children's Bible Classes Resume September 13!

As we begin a new fall season at Peace Memorial, we are excited to welcome our children back to **Sunday morning Bible classes beginning September 13!**

Classes will meet each Sunday from **9:00–10:00 a.m.**, providing our children with an opportunity to grow in their knowledge of God, learn the stories and teachings of Scripture, and discover more about what it means to know and follow Jesus Christ.

Sunday Bible classes are an important part of our ministry to the children of our congregation. Our desire is not simply that our children know Bible stories, but that they come to understand the **big story of Scripture**—God's work of creation, redemption, and His gracious plan of salvation fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the teachers and volunteers who give their time and energy to help nurture the faith of the next generation. Their ministry is an important part of the promises we make together as a church family when we baptize and welcome children into the covenant community.

Parents and grandparents, we encourage you to make Sunday Bible class part of your family's weekly rhythm this fall. While the adults gather for Bible study in the Fireside Room, our children can be learning and growing in God's Word as well.

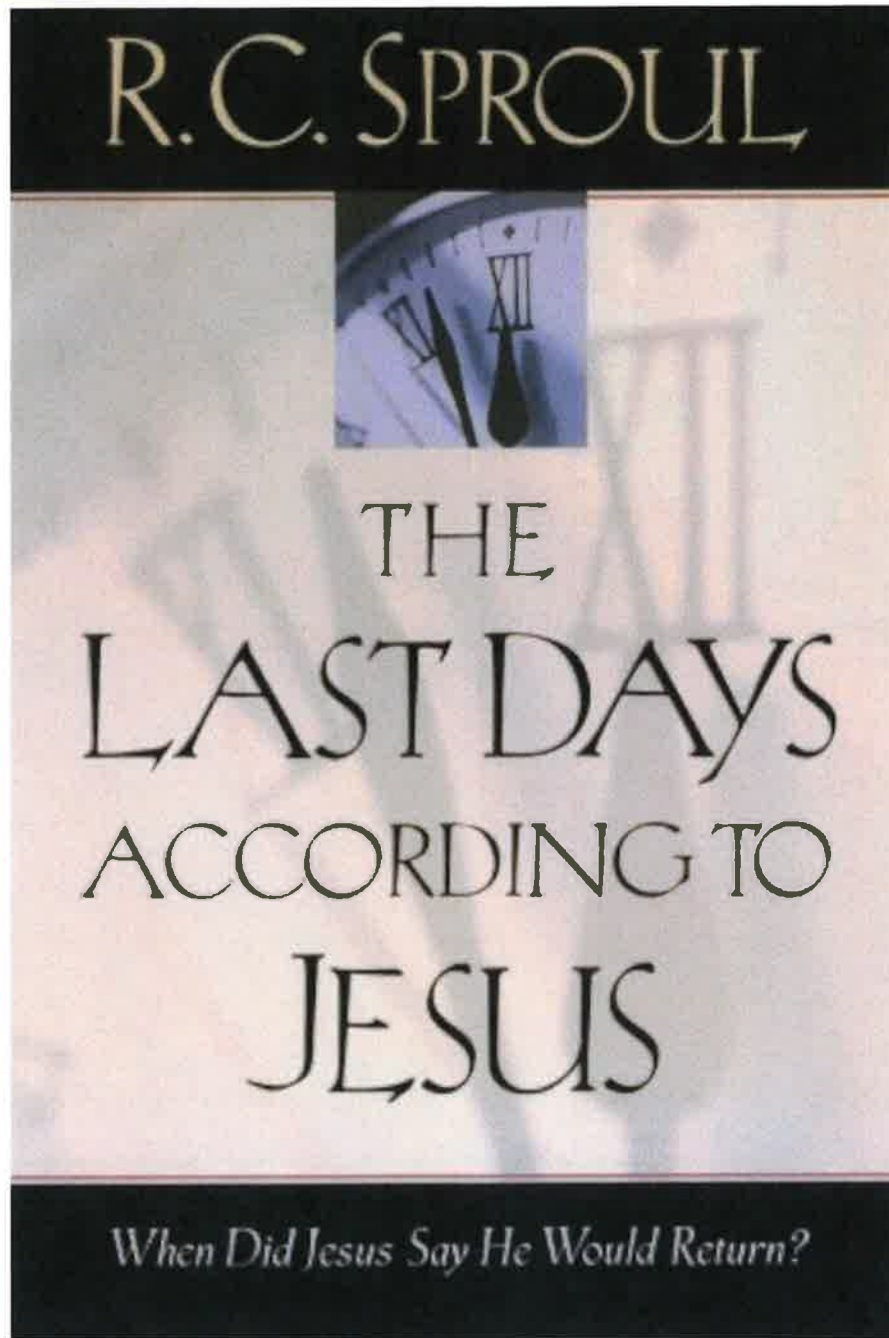
Children's Sunday Bible Classes

Beginning: Sunday, September 13

Time: 9:00–10:00 a.m.

When: Every Sunday

We look forward to seeing our children back in class as we begin another year of **learning God's Word and growing together in Christ!**



Sunday Adult Bible Class on Hold for now

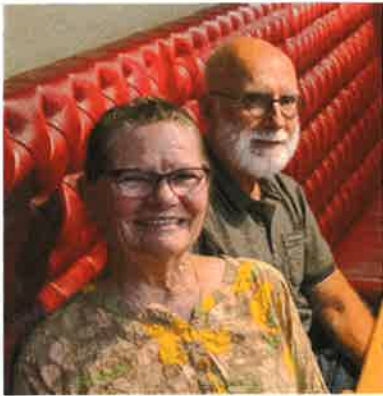
Our Sunday Bible class is on hold this quarter so pastor Aaron can provide care for his parents as they go through some health crises. We look to start up the Sunday video series either following Thanksgiving OR in the new year depending on how pastor's parents are doing and what people's travel plans are for the holiday season.

So stay tuned! We will update plans in the November newsletter.

Blessings to you!

MISSION MEMO

Greetings from *Malaysia*



Mike and Tammy Rigs are two of our missionaries in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church's missionary branch, World Outreach. WO says this about their purpose:

"We go together to hard places, where others are not. We tell the story of Jesus in culturally relevant ways. We strive to plant churches, raise up national leaders, equip and educate them to send their own...and we're backed by more than 600 churches."

(Mike and Tammy Rigs)

Mike and Tammy serve in Malaysia. We get quarterly reports from them as they develop friendships, share Jesus and work to plant churches there. I invite you to lift them in prayer. - Pastor Aaron

Here are some excerpts from their newsletter as they returned to Malaysia after a much needed vacation Stateside:

Return to Malaysia

On August 12 we said goodbye to our family and headed back to Malaysia. We arrived to our little apartment full of dusty, moldy furniture and fixtures. We spent the first couple days treating mold and mildew, mopping, scrubbing and thinking about sleep. Our jet lag is now over, things are becoming more routine, and our visits have picked up again. It is good to be back home.



Dinner with some Malaysian friends

Trip to JB & Singapore

Tammy is still struggling with UTI issues, so her urologist in Malaysia recommended she look into a new UTI vaccine that is available in Singapore. Several weeks ago, we took the train there, had a visit with the urologist, and purchased the vaccine, which is not yet available in the U.S. The 90-day treatment is said to reduce occurrences of UTIs by 75-80 percent.

During our trip to Singapore, we stopped in Johor Baru, just across the border, to visit friends there. God connected us with our ministry partners, and our former language helper and her daughter and we had a delightful visit. We were especially blessed to meet and spend time with an 80-year-old Malay man who has been a Christian for decades.



Prayer for Malaysia!

Praying on “Malaysia Day”

We are blessed with national partners who are committed to pray for this country and especially for the unreached Malay people. Last week, we celebrated the “Malaysia Day” holiday with a prayer gathering on the outskirts of our town. We are thrilled to see that God is moving more and more people in this land to pray!

“Jerebu”

Unclean air in Malaysia :(



Since we returned to Malaysia in August, numerous places in the country have been plagued by smoke from seasonal crop burning on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. This year the “jerebu” as they call it here, has been exceptionally bad, with AQI readings sometimes up in the 200 range. The nearby capital city, Kuala Lumpur, has been consistently near the top of the list of the world’s worst polluted major cities. This makes things difficult for us, since Mike’s lungs are particularly sensitive to air pollution.

Updates on our prayer requests since the last newsletter.

Thank you for your prayers!

- Salvation and deliverance from darkness for our longtime Malay friends.

PLEASE KEEP PRAYING!

- For our national partners, please pray for boldness, and a filling with the Holy Spirit as they live in obedience to the Lord. PLEASE KEEP PRAYING!

- Please pray for our Malay friend and his wife, and for their two children's salvation, and that their paralyzed son and epileptic daughter to be healed. PLEASE KEEP PRAYING!
- Pray for us to listen well to the Lord as he leads and guides us on our home assignment. THANK YOU, LORD FOR GOOD HOME ASSIGNMENT!

New Prayer Requests

- Please pray for next month's trip to Spain where we will meet with other Regional Field Coordinators from our organization.
- Pray for our neighbors medical needs: Naz has diabetes and the toes on his left leg are becoming numb; for Sal's right eye, which has limited sight after he suffered some recent trauma; and Teh's children: his son to be healed from motorcycle injuries and his daughter from epilepsy.
- Tammy still has colitis after much antibiotics for her UTIs. Please pray for restoration to normal function. Pray for Shameer, who is still seeking official recognition of his change in religious status.



SATURDAY October 31ST
9:00 A.M. - ?

Many hands make for light work
We hope to see you here!!

October 2026

October 2026							November 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:00am Sunday Bible Classes (CHILDREN'S) 10:30am Communion	5	6 10:00am Women's Small Group 2:30pm King Group (Fireside room) 3:00pm Goode Group (Goodes Home)	7	8 10:30am Missions & Outreach	9 Office Closed	10
11 9:00am Sunday Bible Classes (CHILDREN'S) 10:30am Worship	12 12:00pm Session	13 10:00am Women's Small Group 2:30pm King Group (Fireside room) 3:00pm Goode Group (Goodes Home)	14 10:30am Ladies Board Meeting	15	16 Office Closed	17
18 9:00am Sunday Bible Classes (CHILDREN'S) 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons	19 4:00pm Stewardship/Finance	20 10:00am Women's Small Group 11:00am Discipleship Mtg 2:30pm King Group (Fireside room) 3:00pm Goode Group	21 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group (Fireside Rm)	22	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:00am Sunday Bible Classes (CHILDREN'S) 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Building & Grounds	26	27 10:00am Women's Small Group 2:30pm King Group (Fireside room) 3:00pm Goode Group (Goodes Home)	28 Articles due to the office for Newsletter	29	30 Office Closed	31 9:00am FALL CLEANUP



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We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

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"Oh, taste and see
that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the one who takes
refuge in Him!"
-Proverbs 34:8

Sermons for September:

THE ARRIVAL OF SALVATION

10/4- -The Faithful Son
Luke 4:1-13

10/11- -Rejected in His Hometown
Luke 4:14-30

10/18- -Authority Over Demons and Disease
Luke 4:31-44

10/25- -Called to Follow
Luke 5:1-11



DEACONS

Noreen Rhoades- Chair
Debbie Grant
Michelle Preston
Gary Preston
Joan Campbell
Cheryl Paletz
Sharon Haddock
Marie Gregory

*The Deacons meet the third Sunday of each
month following worship.*



SESSION/ELDERS

Pastor Aaron Beaty-	Moderator
Geri Coker-	Mission
Kathy Todd-	Stewardship & Finance
Rob Campbell-	Worship
-	Discipleship & Evangelism; Clerk
Gary Scott-	Building & Grounds
Bill Dart-	

Session meets the 2nd Monday from 12-2.