



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

**September 2020**

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**Changes at Piedmont Park**

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

Oh, the times - they are a changing. It’s a lyric that Bob Dylan sang all the way back in 1964. And the times were changing back in the 60’s. But I think that song lyric still rings true today in 2020. The world looked different back in February. Stop and think for a moment how much has changed in our world in these past months. I wear a mask when I get my groceries. We had to stop shaking hands as a greeting. We have a new vocabulary with words like social distancing and now the word Covid is known by young and old.

Yes, the times keep on changing. That’s the reality of this world. But Bob Dylan wasn’t the first to discover that fact. The Bible spoke about changing times all the way back in the days of King Solomon. Solomon wrote in the Ecclesiastes 3 about there being a time for everything and underlying all those times is the reality that things change in time on this world even when we want to keep things the same.

Piedmont Park has had to do some changing this year. Some changes we have all been excited about while others have not been so great. We were all excited about the changes to the sanctuary by the remodel. We all rejoice when a person’s life changes and they decide to be baptized after giving their heart to Christ. Those changes we love! But having to not worship together in the church building for safety’s sake and having to social distance when we started in the building again - I haven’t come across anyone who loved those changes. We long for the day that worship can happen without masks and distance.

*Continued on page 2*

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

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

## Changes at Piedmont Park- Continued from page 1

A sad change happened when we said good bye to Pastor Katelyn as she moved back to Pennsylvania to be closer to family. But now I am excited to share with you a new change. Our search committee worked with the conference to interview a new associate/youth pastor. Pastor Nate Elias has accepted our invitation to join our church family. Pastor Nate, his wife Holly, and two daughters Madeline (16) and Abigail (15) are excited to join our ministry at Piedmont Park. Pastor Nate loves working with young people. In fact, he has his doctorate in mentoring youth and young adults. They are excited to join us sometime in October.

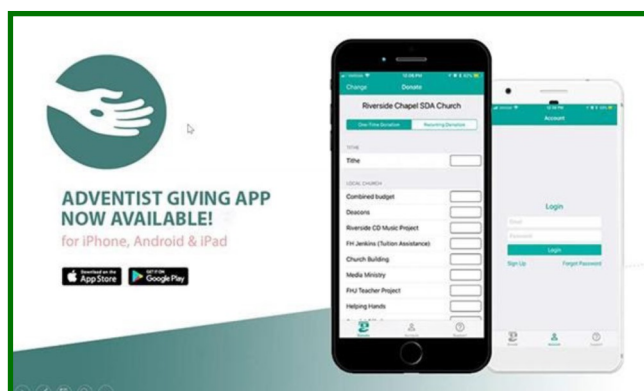
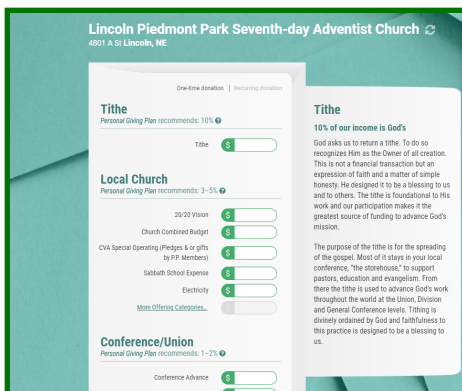
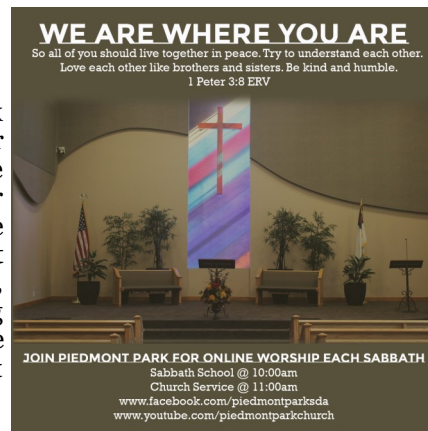
So, the times keep on changing. But in the midst of all this change, it is wise that we remember that God does not change. Jesus is still the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God's promises in the Bible also still stand. He will see us through this troubled time until Christ returns and the ultimate change happens. That will be a change we won't just be excited about — we will rejoice when Jesus comes to change everything.

## 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](http://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](mailto:piedmontparkSDA@gmail.com) or 402-489-1344.



## **Associate/Youth Pastor Nate Elias**

By Vanessa Schaecher

Pastor Nate Elias has accepted our call to be Piedmont's Associate/Youth Pastor, and we are looking forward to welcoming the Elias Family to Piedmont Park in October! We asked Pastor Nate to share a little bit about himself and his family so we can get to know them!

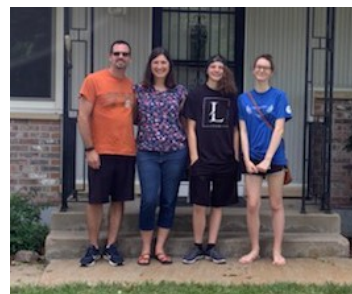


Pastor Nate says:

I was raised in Montana where I homeschooled through high school. I attended Union College and graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology. I also hold both a Master of Divinity Degree and a Doctor of Ministry in Youth and Young Adult Ministry from Andrews University. I am passionate about mentoring and spiritual leadership life coaching. During my 16 years of ministry I have pastored in various roles as academy chaplain, associate pastor, multi-church district pastor and most recently a single church district with an elementary school on the campus. I enjoy playing basketball and watching football (Bears), baseball (Cubs) and basketball. I try to run at least 500 miles each year exercising. Most of all I love spending time with my family.



My wife Holly was raised in Minnesota. She attended Union College for a couple of years. After getting married and having our girls, she completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology through Liberty University. Holly then attained her denominational elementary school teacher certification, and she has worked teaching in the lower grades for the past 9 years. She enjoys reading, spending time with family and going for evening walks. She is a Twins and Vikings fan.



Our daughters, Maddy (16) and Abby (15) have lived their entire lives in Georgia. They both enjoy music and Disney! Maddy loves animals, especially marine life. She is looking forward to that all important driver's license! Abby loves playing basketball and is a Cincinnati Bengals fan. Both of them are transferring from Atlanta Adventist Academy to College View Academy. Maddy will be joining the Junior Class and Abby will be joining the Sophomore Class.

My family and I are so excited to be joining the Piedmont Park Church Family. We look forward to working with you, serving with you and learning more about God together!

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

Email it to [piedmontinspiration@gmail.com](mailto:piedmontinspiration@gmail.com), or call Laura at 402-217-6369.

## Who is Essential?

By Laura Daw

<https://laurahartnelldaw.wordpress.com/>

These days, I'm hearing a lot of terms like "herd immunity" and "essential" workers. Many argue that we need to rely on herd immunity to receive protection from Covid-19. Meanwhile, we also refer to essential workers who range from nurses and doctors to grocery store workers and garbage collectors. They are the people who keep the rest of us going.

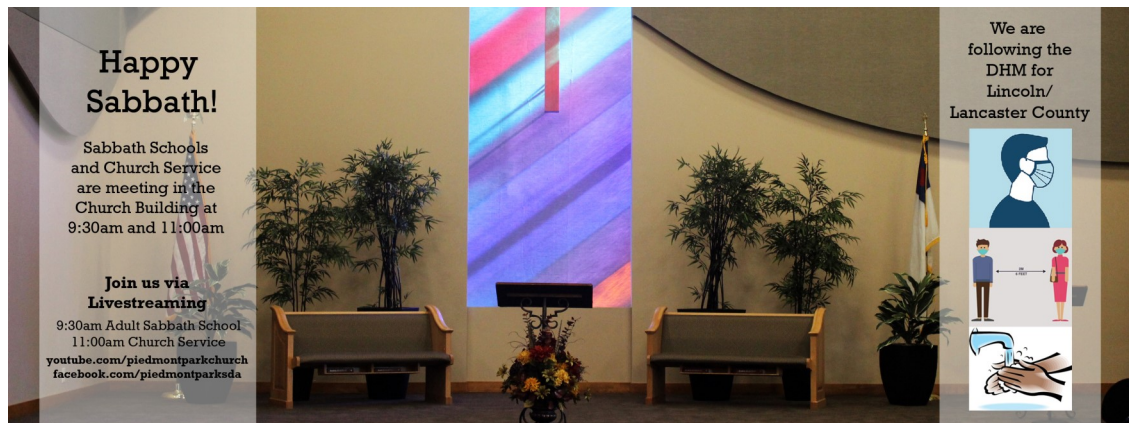
These terms can make those who don't fit the essential worker list and have underlying medical conditions, so they are unlikely to be part of the "herd", to feel very dispensable. After all, our jobs aren't keeping everyone eating or healing the sick. My own job as an instructional designer is creating training for those who pay health insurance claims. Sure, we need those people to pay work claims in an efficient and effectual matter, but not like we need the grocery store staff, the medical personnel, or the truckers who bring food and medical supplies to us. I've been feeling very dispensable.

You know me; I'm introspective. If I'm feeling something, I analyze it to death. I think about it when I'm trying to go to sleep at night, or when I take my morning shower. I think about it when I'm pinned to the couch under a sleeping grandchild. So, I've been thinking about this a lot lately. Am I truly nonessential? Does it matter if I die because I will not have "herd immunity"?

Great news! To Jesus, no-one is dispensable. The people He chose to spend time with were the broken and sinful. His friends included lepers, people who were blind and people who were demon possessed. He offered healing to those who society would write off as nonessential and dispensable. He ate with them, He taught them and He loved them.

Even when His own disciples, who were not exactly high society themselves, discouraged His choice of friends, He made sure that everyone felt important.

*Continued on page 5*



## Who is Essential? Continued from page 3

Think of his words, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30) “Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14) or “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

The first two verses from one of my favorite hymns say it all.

*In the heart of Jesus, there is love for you, love most pure and tender; love most deep and true.*

*Why should you be lonely; why for friendship sigh, When the heart of Jesus has a full supply?*

*In the mind of Jesus, there is thought for you, Warm as summer sunshine; sweet as morning dew.*

*Why should you be fearful, why take anxious thought? Since the mind of Jesus cares for those He bought?*

Jesus didn't just spend time with these people, He healed them. He loved them. He gave His own life for them. In His heart, we are ALL essential.

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### Farewell to Pastor Kate

By Vanessa Schaecher

Last month we said farewell to Pastor Kate as she moved back East to be nearer to family. We celebrated the blessing she was to our church with a Drive-by Farewell Party! Piedmont Park will miss her cheerfulness, her truth-filled preaching, and her enthusiastic support of our children and youth. We pray all the best for her in her future endeavors!



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### 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 has been for at least 100 families, members or guests to bring \$100 on those days totaling \$10,000.00 per time. Bring Ben 12 will be September 26 and Bring Ben 13 probably in December.



We've spent \$445,074.46 so far and have received \$425,694.74 in contributions. The \$19,379.72 difference has been met from our Mid-American Union loan. We've incurred \$8,275.64 in interest on that loan to date. When it became clear we wouldn't need the full \$200,000.00 loan the church board voted to return \$140,000.00 to the loaning organization. Our loan balance is now \$60,139.56.

A \$100,000 donor challenge is continuing to be matched with \$81,220.72 achieved to date.

## Baptisms – Maize Hornby and Erynn Somers

By Vanessa Schaecher

Galatians 3:26-27 says, “*You are all God’s children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*” Over the summer we were blessed to see two of Piedmont’s youth make the decision to follow Jesus into the waters of baptism and new life with Him. It was a little different because instead of watching the baptisms happen in Piedmont’s baptistry, we watched videos of the special event that happened in other locations. But that didn’t dampen our joy knowing that these two young ladies hearts are connected to Jesus and that they are choosing to live for and follow Him! Maize Hornby was baptized by Pastor Frank Kean during College View Church’s Pathfinder Induction. Erynn Somers was baptized by Pastor Katelyn Weyant at a nearby lake. We are excited to see where Jesus leads them next!



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## Jaime Jorge Music Ministry

By Vanessa Schaecher

Jaime Jorge will be joining us on October 31, 2020, to share his music and ministry during our 11:00 a.m. morning church service. Jaime has played in a multitude of settings from high school auditoriums to Carnegie Hall. He has played on six continents and over 73 countries. Come and listen to his marvelous music and captivating personal story of how God has led him. This concert will be an unforgettable experience and blessing!

An offering will be collected for Jaime’s ministry at the end of the church service. He will also have his CDs available using the honor system. All Covid-19 guidelines current as of October 31 will be followed.

This event will be livestreamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages during the 11:00 a.m. church service. However, it will not be available later On Demand due to copyright restrictions. So, if you want to watch the concert, please plan to join in the livestream at the time it is occurring.



A Walk in the Park is available under the **Newsletter** tab on the **Piedmont Park** website at [www.piedmontparksda.org](http://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.

## Women's Ministries

By Carol Leonhardt

Women's Ministries has continued to serve bimonthly suppers at Fresh Start Home during the pandemic. Food is prepared by our Piedmont volunteers and then delivered to the Fresh Start kitchen. The twenty-four women housed at Fresh Start are grateful for the tasty home-cooked food. Because of Covid precautions, our volunteers have missed being able to serve and then eat together with the women and listen to their stories. These women are in transitional housing and spend up to one year at the Home preparing to live independently after graduating from treatment programs. Release from prison and reestablishing themselves after escaping domestic violence are among reasons for homelessness.

Fresh Start Home is in the early planning stages of a capital campaign to retire the debt on their building, update maintenance of the facility, and expand their ability to prepare women for successful, independent living. This is a community project that is worthy of our continued support.

Piedmont volunteers have participated in the annual door-to-door Safe Quarters drive to support Friendship Home and have raised between \$700 and \$1000 in contributions each year. Friendship Home provides housing and supportive services to victims of domestic violence and relies on this drive, which typically brings in over \$100,000. Because of the pandemic, Safe Quarters will be a virtual event this year. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, 10/11 News will air a 5-part mini-series nightly on the 10 o'clock news from October 12-15 featuring Friendship Home. Women's Ministries will be participating in this campaign.

Women's Ministries is promoting the North American Division's Summit on Abuse. This year it will be a virtual event on November 13. You can register for this free event at [www.enditnownorthamerica.org](http://www.enditnownorthamerica.org) and increase safety and services that are related to abuse in our congregation and community. See information below.

### November 13, 2020 - North American Division

- Abuse in Faith Communities - Mary DeMuth
- Church Toolkit: Practical Tips & Resources for Safe Churches and Schools - Rene Drumm
- How to Protect Children and Youth - Ingrid Slikkers
- Digging out of the Pit of Spiritual Abuse - Doug Tilstra

*After the event, videos will be available on the website.*



### Golf Fellowship

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

The 2020 "Whole in One Golf Fellowship" season began in May and will conclude in October - one outing per month. Our September outing was Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> at Pioneers Golf Course. Each outing is being played on a course accepting the Big Red Tour Book which a number of participants purchased at a special discounted price offered to our group. Those using the book pay no green fee, only the cart fee = big savings!

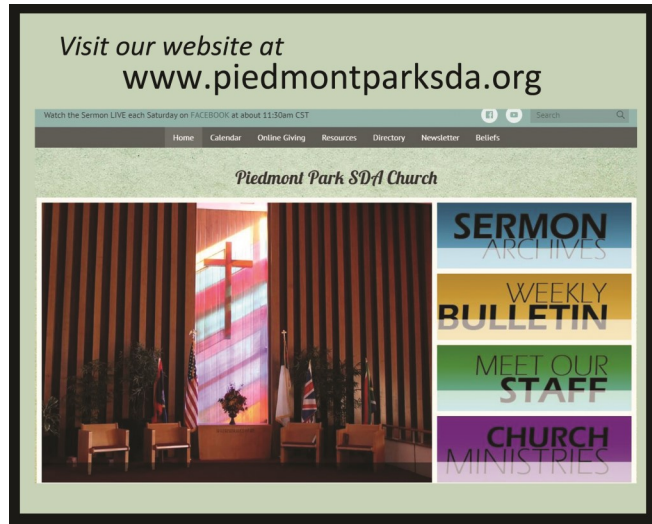


## Mark Your Calendar...

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

**TBD** - Bean Auction fundraiser for Families with Special Needs ministry

**Oct 31** 11 a.m. Jaime Jorge church service/livestream. Come and listen to his marvelous music and captivating personal story of how God has led him. This concert will be an unforgettable experience and blessing!



## Church Beautification

By Robert Mastera

Valeree Krueger has been coordinating with Alex Gilson on beautifying the church grounds. Alex is doing this as his Eagle Scout project. The paragraph below was written by Valeree on Monday Sept 14 concerning the project.

"Alex has said they expect to be ready to plant next Sunday afternoon. I do not have an exact time yet. Yesterday I took a kid and we marked where the bed and plants will go and then we sprayed all the weeds where the mulch will go. That was a longer process than I thought. I will order dirt and mulch for a Friday delivery if possible. I have ordered the plants. I am glad we have the hoses (thanks Michael). There are a lot of holes and the place is one big weed bed. It would be nice to put seed in there sometime. I asked Darla Hornby if they could mow it off very short, and I hope that she can do that Thursday or Friday. The mulch will lay better in the bed.

## Shepherd Ministry

By Ray F. Daniel, Shepherd Coordinator

Some Shepherds are performing incredible ministry providing real blessings to their flock and themselves. We can only hope this ministry will continue and strengthen. We hope it has been of special benefit during the current health crisis when church attendance was not possible.

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>