



Peace United Church of Christ

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The Tidings



April 2023

From the Pastor's Study • April 2023

From the Pastor's Study

As we continue in Lent we give thanks for lengthening days and the opportunity to keep discerning how God journeys with us. Easter will arrive very soon. In that proclamation we are invited to remember that we are a people who are invited to see hope and new life around us all the time. No matter our circumstance, we are encouraged to celebrate that God is always there and doing some new-life giving thing. One of those new things in the life of our congregation is the opportunity to welcome a German minister who is embracing an additional year of internship in order to be among us. It's exciting to welcome Vikar Jakob to our church family. It's fun to remember the history of this congregation and to realize that 125 years ago the church services were held in German, perhaps in a style that would have been more familiar to Vikar Jakob than to us. We have much to learn together as we grow in faith and ministry and that will surely be a great celebration! Blessings to us all,

Pastor Eric

From the Pastor's Vikar's Study

As the plane descended gently into the Milwaukee area, an evening light of pure orange streams through the windows, pouring into this flying tin can like a liquid, filling not just eyes, but souls with the waning Sun's light that speaks of both a welcoming and even a certain amount of melancholy.

"Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here" – it is among the words and impressions that led me here to this congregation, words that Pastor Eric uses every Sunday and on other occasions. And yet, those words also prompt the question: Where am I on life's journey? Nobody really knows how much of our present is truly a beginning, or if we're right in the middle of it all, or if, indeed, we are writing on our closing chapters.

In most respects I feel like I'm experiencing a new beginning. In recent weeks I stripped myself of all my possessions, put everything that was left in storage in one of our old parsonages (we have a lot of those around), sold the car, ate the remaining supplies, until I was just a body with clothes on, plus a big suitcase with some additional attire and all the devices we rely on in this time and age.

I left the place that I called home for the last two and a half years with the words of Scripture in mind, "The Lord said to Jacob: I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go," (Genesis 28:15) encouraging me that I was, in fact, not alone, but that it would be the same God that sent me off on that late afternoon in

Germany which would keep me over “wide space” (Psalm 31:8) and greet me anew in the orange light above Wisconsin.

Still, traveling like this is always an existential experience, especially if you’re on your own. It is almost like a little death: at the end, you face the transition alone, and you don’t really know what awaits you on the other side. In this case I got lucky and was greeted by Eric and Laura’s friendly faces, a warm hug, and a hearty meal at Red Robin’s. It would become the first of many culinary excursions I was happily exposed to in just the first 10 days of my being here, erasing that European prejudice that Americans don’t know what “real food” is. Of course, since I had spent longer periods of time abroad before, especially in Israel and Italy, I already had little regard for assumptions like that.

The warm hug in a figurative sense kept embracing me as soon as I started to meet all the new people in the congregation and as I continue to learn new faces and names every day, including at Cedar Ridge where I moved into my apartment. I can only say that I am grateful for all the welcoming smiles and words of encouragement – each of them contributed to a sense of belonging that – in my case – always followed the sentiment of “blossom where you’re planted”. Home and family can both have more meanings than just one, and I’ve always held the conviction that you can find those anywhere you put up your tent.

Well, the tent is up and I’m ready to go out into this exciting new year with you all! We’ll see what awaits us on the way – for me it will be a path of learning, but also full of places where I can hopefully give back, help out, and share the burdens any congregation has to bear in the joint call that we all follow – of which pastoral ministry is really just one part. And all those amazing experiences waiting around the corner will also round out my own journey into ministry, the final steps before receiving ordination back home next year.

I’m thankful to all of you at Peace UCC for letting me be part of your life’s journey for the upcoming months – every day a gift from the One who carefully brought us into this world, who keeps us, feeds us, and nurtures our growth always. May God bless us,

Jakob

Worship Schedule for April 2023

Sunday, April 2 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – Communion

Sixth Sunday in Lent – Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Matthew 21:1-11 •

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m. Communion

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 • Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 • John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 7, 2023

Good Friday – 1:00 p.m.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 • Psalm 22 • Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 • John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, April 9, 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday – Communion

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 • John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 16 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter

The Baptism of Wesley Elijah Spaits – 8:00 a.m. service

Confirmation – 9:30 service

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 • Psalm 16 • 1 Peter 1:3-9 • John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 23, 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

The Baptism of Bristol Fay Durian - 9:30 a.m. service

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 • Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 • 1 Peter 1:17-23 • Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 30, 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Vikar Jakob - Preaching

Acts 2:42-47 • Psalm 23 • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • John 10:1-10

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

Apr 13 Madison Strom
Apr 16 Kenady Kivell
Apr 17 Hudson Gitter
Apr 19 Tore Schemelin

Anniversaries

Apr 4 Heidi & Brad Rodenkirch (31)
Apr 7 Bill & Jessica Loser (22)
Apr 7 Jason & Jamie Piittmann (22)
Apr 12 Scott & Cathy Stern (15)
Apr 23 Tim & Kathy Danielson (46)

Birthdays (80 years plus)

Apr 1 Shirley Reinders (86)
Apr 5 Ron Rusch (88)
Apr 13 Shirley Schlice (85)
Apr 15 Bob Schrader (84)
Apr 25 Jim Reigle (97)
John Wood (86)
Apr 26 Cheri Hron (91)

Events and Activities



Peace Church Community Meal – Our next Community Meal will take place on April 5, and the first Wednesday of each month. The next meal will be pulled pork sandwiches with cornbread and coleslaw. All are welcome!! Please contact the church office if you have any questions or wish to help. We are always looking for volunteers and desserts!

Sneak peek into future meals: May-Chicken Broccoli casserole; June: Brats & Hot Dogs
There will be a break in Community meals for July and August.

Easter Sunday Breakfast and Services – Peace Church will be hosting an Easter Breakfast on Easter morning - April 9th. Sunrise Service will be held at 7:00 a.m., followed by the 8:00 a.m. breakfast. After breakfast there will be the regular 9:30 a.m. service. Please join us!

Book Group

The Wednesday morning book discussion group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m. in the music room (across from the church office). The group will be discussing "The Four Winds" by Kristen Hannah. Future books include:

- "The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller on May 3
- "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom on June 7.

The group does not meet in July or August but resumes on the first Wednesday morning in September.

For more information about the Wednesday morning book group, please contact Lynn Rusch at lynnrusch@yahoo.com or 262-306-4025.

Church Photo Directory – A new Peace Church photo directory is in the planning. We will soon start booking timeslots for photos: April 27 from 4–8 p.m.; April 29 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Watch for sign-ups.

Peace United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund

The purpose of the Scholarship Fund is to give financial aid and recognition to members of this Church who have shown significant academic and other constructive accomplishment in their school career and church participation.

All members of the Church who, in the opinion of the Committee are qualified and worthy recipients based upon the following criteria are eligible to receive a scholarship:

- Academic achievement
- Service to the Church
- Christian character
- Educational aims

Members may re-apply annually. Applicants may request aid toward the education of their choice beyond High School.

Application forms are available in the Church office or on our website. Applications must be received by **AUGUST 1, 2023**.

Notification of scholarship awards will be made by July 1. Amounts will vary annually. Applicants selected to receive a scholarship shall be expected to remain in continuous attendance in school for the entire semester. **Applicants must submit a transcript of their grades ASAP before February 1, 2024,** following the completion of the first semester, in order to receive their scholarship. Applicants must have successfully completed 12 credits, (full-time student) with no less than a 2.0 grade point average (based on a 4.0 scale).

Band Together for Banned Books - This book club will be held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 at Peace Church. Books will be available to be picked up at the Kewaskum Public Library one month prior to the following group.

April 19, 2023	<u>Nickel Boys</u>	By: Colson Whitehead
May 17, 2023	<u>Catcher in the Rye</u>	By: J D Salinger

We will break for the summer months (June-August). By the May meeting, we will decide together which titles to read during the months of September - December.



Easter Flowers - We will not be having an Easter flower sale, but will order some spring flower plants for the sanctuary. *Please consider donating towards the cost of the plants by sending a check to Peace Church re: Easter Flowers.* Thank you!

Habitat Trip – This summer’s habitat trip will take place from July 9 – July 14. The group will be traveling to Red Wing, Minnesota and assisting the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity. Sign up on the table in the parking lot entrance lobby. Adults and youth who are at least 14 years old and have completed 9th grade are encouraged to participate! The Cost: \$75 for members, \$100 for non-members.

Please use the sign-up sheet located on the table near the parking lot entrance to let us know you plan to participate or contact the office by email: office@peace-ucc.org.



2023 Canada Wilderness Canoe Trip - This coming August, Peace Church will be heading north again to the Canadian wilderness for a time of interaction with some of the very best of God's creation - the sparkling clean waters and forestlands of the White Otter Wilderness area in Ontario. Our trip will take place August 12 (leave Kewaskum early that morning), be on the water

Aug. 13-17, and drive back to Kewaskum on Friday Aug. 18.

The trip is open to youth who have finished their freshman year in high school and above and to all young adults and adults. Approx. cost for the trip will be between \$450 - \$550 depending on our final trip itinerary, number of participants and any fundraisers we might do between now and the trip. This cost covers all of the trip outfitting including canoes, tents, equipment, food, etc. It also covers the cost of travel to and from Kewaskum. All you need to bring with you are your clothes, personal items, and a willingness to participate in a new adventure!!

There is a Canoe Trip sign-up sheet in the parking lot entry area. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Eric, Karla Spaits, or John Kletti.

Peace Church Contemporary Service - Congregation Input Needed – There will be input sessions after each worship service on Sunday, April 23rd to discuss the interest in Peace Church having a Contemporary Worship Service. We highly encourage you to be part of this discussion and welcome your input!

FREE

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**343 1st Street
KEWASKUM, WI
(262) 626-4011**

- **This group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:30pm at Peace United Church of Christ in Kewaskum.**
- **Both Peace UCC members AND community members are invited to attend. This group is not a religious-focused group, though members may indeed discuss their own spiritual or religious background as it relates to their grief journey.**
- **There is no charge for this group.**
- **Anyone looking for support on life's journey of grief is welcome. Some group members will have experienced the death of a loved one/friend in the recent past and some a year or even years in the past.**
- **This group is open-ended: each member attends as often and for as many sessions as is personally helpful.**
- **Group discussion is directed by member's needs and their personal experiences between sessions. The group is led by a retired social worker who facilitates the group process. This is a support group and not a therapy group.**
- **If interested, or for more information, please contact the office of:**

**Peace United Church of Christ
(262) 626-4011**

Financial Report

Financial Report February 2023

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of January 31, 2023	\$ (28,115)
Receipts	31,224
Expenses	(\$29,323)
Ending Balance as of 12/30/2022	<u>(\$26,214)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

Peace Pantry	496.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	20.00
Lent	35.00
Ash Wednesday	155.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>706.00</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project \$(53,499.76)

Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023, Peace UCC Council Meeting Minutes

Those in attendance: Kathy Charland, Mark Bocher, Clark Pearson, Becky Manthei, Lisa Atwater, Brad Preder, Melissa Polzin, Tim Stoffel, Paul Behring and Vance Reif.

Those absent: Ken Singer, Marnie Winninghoff, Chris Rode, Melinda Sargent, and Kathy Mertz

Meeting opened at 6:02pm with a prayer offered by Kathy C.

- Motion made by Clark P to approve the agenda, with a 2nd from Paul B. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Lisa A to approve the Jan minutes, with a 2nd from Kathy C. Motion carried.
- Bill Stangl presented the proposed Constitution as updated by committee members Chris Rhode, Mark Bocher, Clark Pearson, Karen Kletti, and John Lemke Sr. Council requested some grammatical corrections as well as update of the Church School Superintendent to chairperson, and an update to the min/max of council members. Bill will update the Constitution and send back to the Council to vote on next month.
- Review of January giving and expenses. Expenses were less than budget, however giving for the month was down. Net loss for the month of \$11,488. Motion by Clark P to put the treasury report on file for audit, with a second by Kathy C. Motion carried.
- Looking for a new office computer as well as a technician to come in to aide with set up. Mark B made a motion to spend up to \$4000 to cover computer and tech support with money coming out of the building fund, and a 2nd came from Tim S. Motion carried.
- No update on ceiling per Vance R.
- Reminder that annual reports are due on Feb 15th.
- Will review how we approve requests in March.
- Picture directory discussed. Will be meeting with Kandy and Lilly Lindgren and Robin Nichols.
- Review of combining this year's picnic and the 125th celebration. Looking for individuals who want to help plan this.

- Motion by Kathy to pay the full cost of the confirmation retreat for the kids and chaperone(s) going this year. 2nd from Clark P. Motion carried, with one abstain.
- Simple supper on Ash Wednesday. Looking for assistance. Confirmation will take place on April 16, 2023.
- Reviewed options for additional meeting times to talk stewardship. Others beyond Council members may participate as well.
 - March 5 from 11-1 will be a stewardship meeting.
 - March 14th at 6pm is next Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:32pm.

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4		6	7	8
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Communion PALM SUNDAY Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation-TBD 9 th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30		LECTIONARY 10 AM Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm	XYZ CLUB BOOK CLUB 9:30 am Community Meal	Prayer Shawl Group – 1 PM Maundy Service 7pm	Good Friday Service 1:00 pm	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 7 am & 9:30 am Easter Breakfast 8:00 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30		LECTIONARY 10 AM Church Council 6pm	XYZ CLUB	Grief Group 1 pm	Tidings Deadline	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 8 & 9:30 am 9:30 - CONFIRMATION Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30		LECTIONARY 10 AM Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm	XYZ CLUB Banned Book Club – 1:30 pm			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30		LECTIONARY 10 AM	XYZ CLUB	Grief Group 1 pm		
30						
Worship 8 & 9:30 am – Vikar Jakob Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30						