

Peace United Church of Christ
The Tidings
April 2024



Worship Schedule for April

Sunday, April 7 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – COMMUNION
CONFIRMATION at 9:30 a.m. service

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35 • Psalm 133 • 1 John 1:1-2:2 • John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 14 10- 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19 • Psalm 4 • 1 John 3:1-7 • Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 21 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Acts 4:5-12 • Psalm 23 • 1 John 3:16-24 • John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 28 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 • Psalm 22:25-31 • 1 John 4:7-21 • John 15:1-8

From Pastor Jakob's Study • April 2024

After over a year in the States, I will now finally return to Germany – however, my stay will be merely transitory, a vacation. Talk about the ever–diverging paths of life! Recently, as a part of a clergy retreat out at Cedar Valley, we talked about how our lives as Christians are “woven together” (Colossians 2:2), other translations have us being “drawn” together, “knit” together, or simply “united” – “in love”. It sure is amazing to look back and see the all the meandering threads of our lives being united to others, as they connect for a while, separate at some points, maybe to be rejoined in some distant future.

My own thread of life had been – at least physically – disconnected from most people I knew a year ago, and yet so deeply held and caught and carried by all the mingled threads of this community that pulled me into their tapestry, invited me into their patterns and frameworks and stories that I never had a chance to even miss my home – instead finding one away from what was home once.

I see these threads pulsating with life and light before my eyes, as they all join together into this crazy venture called Peace Church. We are a family, and I have been invited to join it as both a son and a father, as both a brother and a friend. The word “Welcome” constitutes the center of our mission and our theology, the Good News we proclaim boldly, that we hold ourselves accountable to.

At the same time, as any one of us, my thread comes from different, far–away places that made me into who I am. To revisit those places now will be so special, and, at times, surreal. To visit my home village, reconnect with my old parish and the wonderful people there, dive back into the big city life of Berlin even for just a few days, meet my parents and friends all over, friends that shaped my journey so deeply over the different stations of my life – all of this means following my own thread all the way back to where it began.

What is the sum of a life? We don't get to define and quantify the answer to that question. It's enough to know that the great weaver of life gently holds our thread through all the stains and valleys, and through the golden gloss and luster as well. In the shadow of St. Patrick's, we may say with the Irish: “It's in the shelter of each other that the people live” – woven together in love.

May His Peace be with you all.

Pastor Jakob

Events and Activities

Community Meal Desserts Needed! – The April Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. The menu is hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, baked beans, and mixed fruit cup, plus dessert and beverage. We need desserts! If you can make a dessert, please contact the office, and let us know!

Peace Church Book Group - The Peace Church Wednesday morning book groups will be meeting Wednesday, April 3, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the book "Take My Hand" by Dolan Perkins Vallez. The group meets in the music room across the hall from the church office. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Lynn Rusch at 262-306-4025 or lynnrusch@yahoo.com.

The group meets once a month on the first Monday of the month from September through June. One member of the group leads the book discussion.

Dear Friends of Peace Church...

- ❖ I would like to extend a heartfelt Thanks for all the cards, messages, and calls regarding the fracture of my knee cap. They were so thoughtful and very much appreciated. Jackie McCurdy.
- ❖ Thank you so much for the wonderful cards and prayers of healing. They have all helped and are very much appreciated. Kathy Mertz
- ❖ It is with heartfelt thanks that we recognize Peace church for the many prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, visits, and offers of help during this unexpected change in our lives. You have proven without a doubt that this is indeed a special place with lots of very special people. An extra thank you to our pastors Eric and Jakob for their many visits. We look forward to being able to be among you before too much longer. Blessings to all of you, Joe and Mary Billmann
- ❖ I have been enjoying the flowers that Ann Flood, and her son, Brady, brought to me from church. It also gave me an opportunity to meet and get to know a new family at church. We had a nice visit until the school bell rang. Thank you for thinking of me with the flowers. They are really lovely. Blessing, Betty Hallen



Church Grounds Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 4th from 9-noon. Anyone interested in helping is welcome. The work will consist of mulch in planting areas as needed, some tree branch trimming as needed, misc. clean-up around church, moving plants - adding plants as needed, window washing as needed (exterior side of windows), etc.

Peace Church Banned Book Group – will meet on Wednesday, March 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the church music room. The group will discuss “Call of the Wild” by Jack London. Books are reserved at the Kewaskum Library and can be picked up starting Feb. 15th. Future books are: May 15th – Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. If you need assistance with obtaining a book, please contact the church office.



Congratulations to the 2024 Confirmation Class-Confirmation at Peace Church will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at the 9:30 a.m. service. This year’s confirmands are Kaylee Flood, Cole Loser, Lizzie Nichols, Eli Ogi, Lia Piittmann, Kylie Van Beek, and Lorelei Walker.

Habitat for Humanity Trip – Pack your bags and hit the road with Peace Church’s Habitat for Humanity, as we travel to Red Wing, MN from June 9 – 14, 2024. Build a home, make new friends, help others. And while you’re at it...have lots of FUN! We have had a member of the congregation graciously offer to underwrite the participant costs for this trip, so, there will be no cost to attend this mission trip.

Canada Wilderness Canoe Trip Adventure

Hi everyone, while the weather here in Kewaskum is still very unpredictable, we have firmed up plans to travel to Atikokan Ontario again this summer for a 6 day / 5-night wilderness canoe trip into the White Otter Wilderness. Here are the trip details so that you can plan accordingly if you would like to join in the adventure.

July 19, 5AM Leave Kewaskum for Canada
July 20-25 Canoeing in the beautiful White Otter Wilderness area
July 26 Return to Kewaskum



APPROX. Cost per person - \$650
Note that we can reduce this per person cost with potential fund raisers. Scholarships are always available, talk to Pastor Eric

This trip is a great way to connect with God in all of his glorious creation and to forge closer relationships with all of the trip participants. Hope you are able to join us. For more information, please contact Pastor Eric or John Kletti.

**Sign-Up Sheets for either trip is on Bulletin Board in Church Lobby –
or email the office at office@peace-ucc.org**

Mother’s Day Cookie Sale - Our college students are part of our mission of outreach. We help our students, as best we can, by baking and selling cookies. This year we plan to ask you to bake for our sale on Mother's Day. If you want to bake, please bring your offering to church on Saturday between 9:00 and 10:00. Please help our students by overpaying as usual. Thank you, The Scholarship Committee

Peace Church Brat Fry at Piggly Wiggly – Peace Church will be hosting a brat fry at the Kewaskum Piggly Wiggly on Saturday, April 20th. Brats, hamburgers, and hot dogs will be served from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **We need volunteers to help with this event. Start-up time is 9:00 a.m. and clean-up should be done by 3:00 p.m.** We have divided volunteer time into two shifts - 9 a.m. - noon and noon - 3 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Peace Church-Family Promise fund. Sign up by calling the church office at 262-626-4011 or by clicking here: [BRAT FRY](#)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

Apr 16 Kenady Kivell
Apr 19 Tore Schemelin

Anniversaries

Apr 4 Brad & Heidi Rodenkirch (32)
Apr 7 Bill & Jessica Loser (23)
Apr 7 Jason & Jamie Piittmann (23)
Apr 12 Scott & Cathy Stern (16)
Apr 23 Tim & Kathy Danielson (47)

Birthdays (80 years plus)	
Apr 1	Shirley Reinders (87)
Apr 5	Ronald Rusch (89)
Apr 13	Shirley Schlice (86)
Apr 15	Bob Schrader (85)
Apr 25	James Reigle (98)
Apr 25	John Wood (87)
Apr 25	Cheri Hron (92)

Financial Report

Financial Report February 2024

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of Jan 31, 2024	(\$32,316)
Receipts	\$27,116
Expenses	(\$29,980)
Ending Balance as of 2/29/2024	<u>(\$35,180)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

Peace Pantry	1,654.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	25.00
Ash Wednesday	\$170.00
Easter	\$125.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>\$1,974.00</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project	\$(1,974.00)
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Council Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting February 13, 2024, Minutes

Members present: Tim Stoffel, Becky Manthei, Kathy Charland, Melissa Polzin, Eric Walker, Bill Stangl, Lisa Atwater, Kathy Mertz, Brad Preder, Vance Reif, Karen Kletti, Cathy Stern, Bill Stangl, Pastor Eric, and Vikar Jakob

Members absent: Mark Bocher and Melinda Sargent

The meeting opened at 6:01pm with a prayer from Vikar Jakob.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Kathy C, with a second from Lisa A. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the January minutes (Jan 16 and 24th) made by Vance R, second from Tim S. Motion carried.

Financial report reviewed. Motion made by Eric W. to not exceed \$100k in checking, with the amount over to move to our investment fund. The second motion was made by Kathy M. Discussion held around the functionality of the investment committee. Motion carried. Motion made by Becky M. to place the financial report on file for audit, with a 2nd coming from Kathy C. Motion carried.

Melissa requested council members to sign up to serve communion. Sign-up sheet was passed around.

Motion made by Kathy C to cover single person health insurance for Robin at a cost of \$1,132 per month for Oct-Dec of 2024. Second motion by Karen K. Motion carried.

A local card club has requested use of our building on Tuesday nights from 6-10 pm, as well as 2 Sundays a month from 1-4pm. The facility use form will be sent to the organization, and we will let them know that alcohol is prohibited. We will not allow them to use the facility on Sunday as well as the 2nd Tues of the month. The balance of the Tuesdays in the month would be allowed.

Review of where Lenten/Easter offerings can be distributed. Motion made by Kathy C, with a second from Bill S, to equally distribute funds collected to NAMI-Washington County, Church World Service, and Bread for the World. Motion carried.

Motion coming from the Discernment committee with a proposed compensation package for Vikar Jakob. Contract covers March 2024 thru March 2025. Total value of the package aligns with the conference recommendation. The compensation proposed was part of the 2024 budget that was approved by the congregation at the annual meeting. Discussion was had. Motion carried.

Congregational meeting to be held on March 3rd to approve the calling of Vikar Jakob to fulfill the half time Associate Pastor position.

Melissa reviewed the 5 pillars and requested members to email her with your top 3 choices.

Karen K provided a Habitat update. Intergenerational trip scheduled for June 9th-14th at Red Wing, MN, and young adult trip will be on Jan 3-11th at Winston Salem, NC.

Pastor submitted his report for review. Awareness of many members going thru health issues and grieving losses. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm with the Lord's prayer. Next meeting: March 12, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. Full Consistory. Respectfully submitted, Becky Manthei



Easy Online Giving! Just click on the QR Code and follow the couple of steps to electronically give to several Peace Church funds.



Do you remember when we used to host families in our Sunday School Classrooms for several weeks each year? There was that amazing opportunity to create a safe, warm space for homeless families with dependent children. Soon we expanded the program to include homeless single

women. Many of us had the chance to meet the families, to provide three meals a day for them, to support the kids and parents as they navigated through a difficult time in their lives.

It was many years ago that the area churches along with the Salvation Army began gathering for conversations to try to address homelessness in Washington County. The general public was under the illusion that we didn't have any homelessness in our area, or at least not much. But our stories and those of the area human services told a different story. When we learned of the Family Promise program, we celebrated the chance to both care for those in need and also raise awareness of this seemingly invisible homelessness in our midst. The pairing of churches hosting, as well as the program providing social services that would work to get people back on their feet, seemed like a winning formula. And the program grew stronger, more vibrant, and better rooted in our community. Family Promise acquired transitional housing space and then branched out to build Karls Place to house homeless individuals as they transitioned to independence.

Well, when the pandemic hit, and people were no longer being housed in our churches... and the program drifted into less visibility for most of us. But we kept caring for the families. We put them up in hotels until Family Promise was able to build new space adjacent to Karl's place to house the families. The churches continued to provide meals and support. Currently Family Promise is servicing about 18 people. Karl's Place has another 15 people. This still represents a very limited number of beds for our county. But it's a vital help. These are wonderful ministries that our church has proudly supported since the beginning.

We want these ministries to continue strong, and we need your help. At this point Mark & Kim Bocher and Kathy Charland, along with a small group of volunteers, have been gathering at church to cook the meals for our week of feeding all these people. We are looking at opportunities to expand the group who is involved in this meal prep. And ministry. We are also in great need of donations to purchase the food necessary to make this happen. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Mark, Kathy, or the church office. If you're able to make a monetary donation, please identify your offering as "Family Promise." And thank you for being a congregation who takes Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves seriously. You can donate to Family Promise through Peace Church by using the QR code below.



Peace Church-April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		LECTIONARY 10 AM 7:00-8:30 Adult Faith Formation	XYZ CLUB Book Club Community Meal 4:30-6	Prayer Shawl 1 pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 8 & 9:30 am CONFIRMATION Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation	Pastoral Relations Mtg 6:30 pm	LECTIONARY 10 AM Church Council 6 pm	XYZ CLUB	Living the Question 10 am Grief Group 1 pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 5:30-7:00	Care & Connection Mtg 1:00 pm	LECTIONARY 10 AM Church Council 6:00 PM	XYZ CLUB Banned Book 1:30 pm			Peace Church Brat Fry @ Piggly Wiggly
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 5:30-7:00		LECTIONARY 10 AM Public Library Cooking Club 1-3:30 pm	XYZ CLUB	Living the Question 10 am Grief Group 1 pm		
28	29	30				
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 5:30-7:00		LECTIONARY 10 AM				