

Peace United Church of Christ

The Tidings

February 2024



From the Pastor's Study • February 2024

It was bitterly cold and much too snowy as we gathered this year to remember the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For many years now we have gathered at Cedar Community to worship, sing, and pray as we remember a dream that would call our nation ever forward toward greater love and unity. I have often been outspoken about our remembering that MLK was an ordained Baptist minister, the son of a minister, with an exceptional theological education. The reason I am keen to point that out is that the teachings of Rev. Dr. King were deeply rooted in religious teachings. Even his adoption of methods of non-violent protest were rooted in the practices of Mahatma Ghandi who saw the practices of satyagraha (truth-force, active non-violence) mirrored in the example of Jesus. At the roots of our faith is this extraordinary call to let love and truth and justice roll down like mighty waters in the transformation of the world. These days it seems that it's cold enough that all water is frozen... and in many ways that call to ongoing transformation is also deeply challenged.

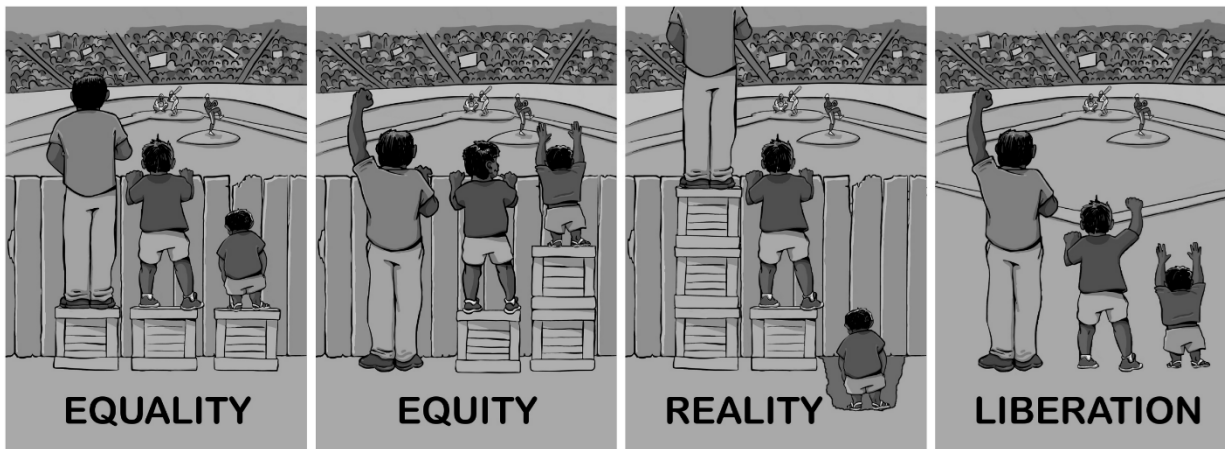
We have entered the Season of Epiphany when we celebrate the revelation of God's love living among us in the flesh. Our church year once again begins with the proclamation that God's kingdom has come near, that we are to repent and believe the Good News. Those words are so familiar and perhaps comfortable to us as Christians without our thinking about what they mean. For us to repent, for us to live in the Kingdom that God proclaims, should really be continually challenging us be as motivated as Rev. King. He understood that his salvation was intertwined with that of every other child of God. That is no small challenge. Jesus' teaching was not merely feel-good spiritualism, it was a challenge to

reshape the way that God's love was manifest in the world. We have to remember that it challenged the power structures in ways where they felt threatened enough to feel the need to execute him.

Is it any wonder that between Jesus' baptism and the start of his ministry that the Holy Spirit thrust him into the wilderness to be tempted and forced into a state of prayer and reflection? Those forty days in the desert will be woven into our journey again soon enough as we begin the Season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, what an appropriate time to begin a journey of pondering what God's love would look like if it governed our lives and our world.

Rev. Dr. King, Epiphany, Lent, Love... each calls us to reexamine our lives – to look at politics and the news, the ways that we treat our neighbors and our families, the ways that we vote and how we spend our money, the ways that we listen to those with whom we may disagree and love them. Our faith is a call to live our lives differently, to live as God invites us knowing that to love extravagantly changes both ourselves and our world for the better.

There was a graphic that was shared at the MLK day teach-in that I found compelling. It was created by the *Interaction Institute for Social Change* and *The Center for Story Based Strategy* by Artist: Angus Maguire to be freely shared. It looks like justice, and to me it looks like faithfulness.



I believe that the weather will change, the snow will melt, and the waters will once again flow in mighty ways... and I believe that God's justice can roll down upon us and through us as witness to the world.

Epiphany startles us with the love of God and Lent gives us the challenge of praying about how we might make it real in our lives so that we too might be ready to faithfully follow in God's radical, challenging, example of love made real in Jesus.

May God bless us in our boldly turning ourselves to God's kingdom ways!

PASTOR ERIC

Worship Schedule for February

Sunday, February 4 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. - **COMMUNION**

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 • Psalm 147:1-11, 20c • 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 • Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 11- 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12 • Psalm 50:1-6 • 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 • Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 14 – 7:00 pm

Simple Soup Supper 5:30 pm

Ash Wednesday – Holden Prayer

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 • Psalm 51:1-17 • 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 • Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 18 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 • Psalm 25:1-10 • 1 Peter 3:18-22 • Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, February 25 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 am

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 • Psalm 22:23-31 • Romans 4:13-25 • Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Events and Activities

Lenten Services - Holden Prayer Services will take place on Wednesdays from February 21 – March 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Peace Church. Ash Wednesday service (with communion and ashes) will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Simple Soup Supper – will be held on Ash Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. A meal of soup and bread will be served. All are welcome! Please let Robin in the church office know if you can bring soup and/or bread. (office@peace-ucc.org or 262-626-4011)

Community Meal Desserts Needed! – The February Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7th from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. The menu is Spaghetti & Meatballs, garlic bread and a green salad, plus dessert and beverage. We need desserts! If you can make a dessert, please contact the office, and let us know! Thank you!

Peace Church Book Group - The Peace church Wednesday morning book group meets on February 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the music room across from the church office. The group will be discussing "East of the Mountains" by David Guterson (author of the book "Snow Falling on Cedars"). Future books include:

"Three Weeks With My Brother" by Nicholas Sparks on March 6'

"Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel" by Bonnie Garmus on April 3

"The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson on May 1

"Take My Hand" by Dolan Perkins Vallez on June 5

Everyone is invited to these discussions. For more information, please contact Lynn Rusch at 262-306-4025 or lynnrusch@yahoo.com.

Peace Church Banned Book Group – will meet on Wednesday, February 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the church music room. The group will discuss "Go Tell It on the Mountain" by James Baldwin. Books are reserved at the Kewaskum Library and can be picked up starting Jan. 15th. Future books are: March 20th – Are You There God? It's Me Margaret by Judy Blume, April 17th – The Call of the Wild by Jack London, May 15th – Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. If you need assistance with obtaining a book, please contact the church office.

Adult Faith Formation – will meet the first and third Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 (February 6, 20, March 5, 19, and April 2. We will begin a 5-week study by Pastor Adam Hamilton entitled *Half Truths – "God helps those who help themselves" and other things the Bible doesn't say*. Session titles are:

1. Everything Happens For A Reason.
2. God Helps Those Who Help Themselves.
3. God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle.
4. God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It.
5. Love The Sinner, Hate The Sin.

Each session will explore the theological and Biblical implications of these familiar phrases that only contain half-truths while often the other half is quite destructive and misguided. These discussions will be led by Pastor Eric and/or Vikar Jakob. Come and join our lively and engaging discussion as we seek to deepen our relationship to God and our faith. There is a book that accompanies this study if you wish to use it, otherwise we will guide you through the DVD based presentation. Let the church office know if you would like us to order a book for you.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

Feb 6 Katie Singer
Feb 10 Coralee Flood
Feb 11 Ari Schemelin
Feb 14 Miles Kedroske
Feb 17 Aidan Polzin
Feb 20 Cole Loser, Lily Van Beek
Feb 26 Marshall Kedroske, Malcolm Kedroske

Birthdays (80 years plus)

Feb 8 Colleen Roe (88)
Feb 17 Joe Billmann (83)
Feb 24 Barbara Westra (83)

Anniversaries

Feb 28 Jeff & Julann Retzlaff (37)

Financial Report

Financial Report December 2023

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of November 30, 2023	(\$45,524)
Receipts	\$38,415
Expenses	(\$28,656)
Ending Balance as of 12/31/2022	<u>(\$35,765)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

Peace Pantry	637.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	25.00
Christmas	962.00
Thanksgiving	25.00
Giving Tree	425.00
Family Promise	110.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>2,184.00</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project \$(3,548.58)

Council Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting November 14, 2023, Minutes

Members present: Clark Pearson, Tim Stoffel, Vance Reif, Paul Behring, Brad Preder, Lisa Atwater, Mark Bocher, Becky Manthei, Kathy Charland, Kathy Mertz, Melissa Polzin, and Pastor Eric

Members absent: Ken Singer and Melinda Sargent

Meeting opened at 6:00pm with a prayer from Mark B.

Motion to approve the agenda Clark P, with a second from Kathy M. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the revised October minutes to show Melissa P as present and remove from the absent, made by Melissa P, second from Mark B. Motion carried.

Financial report presented by Cathy Stern. Correction of the general fund expenses on the summary report 2022 ytd to \$280,508. Motion made by Clark P. to place the financial report on file for audit, with a 2nd coming from Vance R. Motion approved.

Pastor spoke about the future of Vikar Jakob. His time is currently split to approximately 50% learning and 50% pastoral work. Request made to take this back to the Search and Call committee to vet out the needs of the church to understand if a position is required.

Christmas service schedule will be 9:30 am, 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm on Christmas Eve and 9:30 am on Christmas Day. New Year's Eve Day service will be at 9:30 am.

Review of communion schedule and request of members to fill in the positions available.

Vandalism occurred several times on our Peace Pantry. Robin contacted the police department. Mark B will talk to John K about putting up a motion light.

Habitat trip is being planned for January. Currently no people signed up.

December 3rd is the community cookie walk. Request made for donated cookies. Plan to decorate them on a Sat, the 2nd at 1pm. Looking at potentially having a float in the parade as well.

Vance R attended a presentation titled Protecting Places of Worship: United Against Hate presented by DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure. There are grants available for surveillance equipment and lighting. Further investigating to see what steps we need to take to apply. Vance will look at getting a group together to move this forward.

Paul B reported on the cemetery updates. Concrete was poured for where the bench will go. The foundation for the columbarium has been completed. Looking to review what the costs will be for people who want to purchase a spot.

45 pledges turned in for a total of \$182,260 received out of goal of \$300,000. Lots of positive feedback provided from the congregation.

Kathy M, Clark P, and Mark B from council volunteered to count the money collected each week. This is completed during the week while Robin is around.

Still looking for 1 new consistory member to serve a 2 year term.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm with the Lord's prayer. Next meeting: Dec 12, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. Full Consistory

Respectfully submitted, Becky Manthei

Council Meeting December 12, 2023, Minutes

Members present: Clark Pearson, Tim Stoffel, Vance Reif, Paul Behring, Brad Preder, Lisa Atwater, Mark Bocher, Becky Manthei, Kathy Charland, Kathy Mertz, Ken Singer, Melissa Polzin, and Vikar Jakob

Members absent: Melinda Sargent and Pastor Eric

Meeting opened at 6:00pm with a prayer from Vikar Jakob.

Motion to approve the agenda Clark P, with a second from Kathy M. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the November minutes made by Melissa P, second from Mark B.

Motion carried.

Financial report presented by Cathy Stern. Motion made by Clark P. to place the financial report on file for audit, with a 2nd coming from Vance R. Motion approved.

Special thanks to all the Council members whose term ends in 2023. Welcome to all incoming members. Special thank you to all the work Kathy Charland has done to move the church forward. Kathy made statements around the work done with the pillars and asked that we may continue having further discussions to continue to move the church forward. Welcome made to the new president, Melissa Polzin, and the council showed their support to assist Melissa in the upcoming year.

January young adult habitat trip this year will not take place due to not enough interest. Hope that there is more interest next year.

Donated furniture has been disbursed throughout the building. Still looking for places for some of the pieces. The furniture is a nice quality wood, so looking at replacing

some of the old metal cabinetry in the Sunday School classrooms with these nicer pieces.

Usher schedule passed around for Communion Sundays.

Reminder about the Christmas service schedule. Christmas Eve services will be 9:30 am, 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm, and 9:30 am on Christmas Day. New Year's Eve Day service will be at 9:30 am.

Motion by Kathy Charland to hire Vikar Jakob for half time for one year, with revisiting this in a year. Second motion by Kathy Mertz. Lots of good discussion was had amongst the Council. Motion carried.

The Search and Call committee is asked to meet to review the details around the position Vikar will fill. Also need to create a compensation package with collaboration from the council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm with the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting: January 9, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. Full Consistory

Respectfully submitted, Becky Manthei

Peace United Church of Christ 2024 Church Council Members & Staff

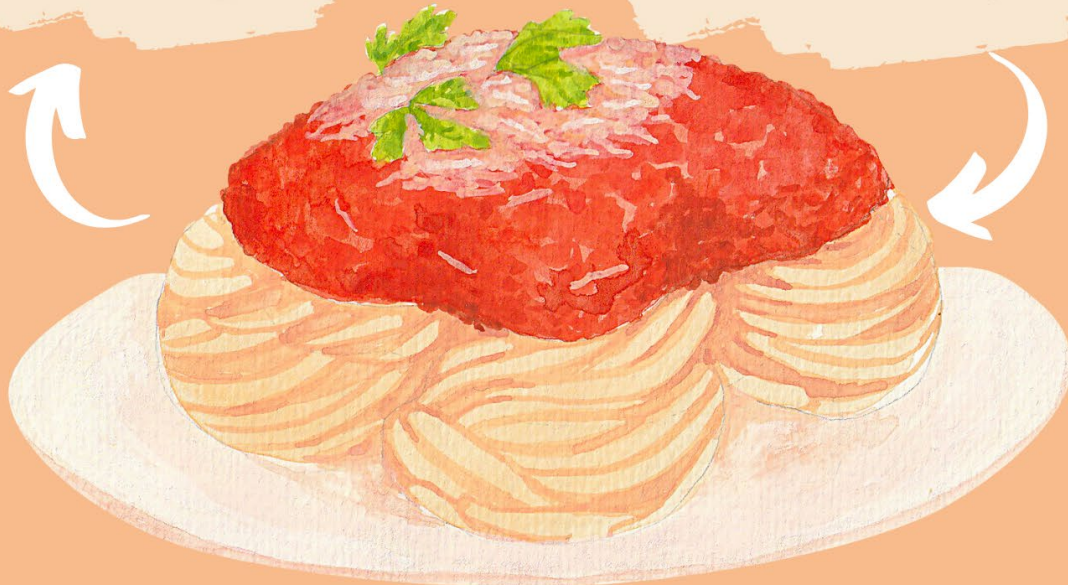
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Mark Bocher (12/31/24)	262-685-7798	mbocher8@gmail.com
Kathy Charland (12/31/25)	262-626-4687	charland22056@gmail.com
Becky Manthei (12/31/24) (Sec.)	262-388-9426	mantheibecky@gmail.com
Kathy Mertz (12/31/25)	262-483-6509	kathleen.mertz@gmail.com
Melissa Polzin (12/31/24) (Pres)	920-988-3250	gault_m2@hotmail.com
Brad Preder (12/31/2024)	262-388-0595	brad.preder@gmail.com
Vance Reif (12/31/24)	262-626-8889	vancereif@gmail.com
Melinda Sargent (12/31/25)	802-272-4893	melindassargent@gmail.com
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Bill Stangl (12/31/26)	262-626-2457	wmstangl@yahoo.com
Eric Walker (12/31/26) (VP)	262-305-6235	ewalker.eng@gmail.com
Treasurer - Cathy Stern	262-626-6644 Cell: 920-737-9101	catstern@hotmail.com
Pastor - Rev. J. Eric Kirkegaard	262-626-1655 (h) Cell: 262-707-0758	pastor@peace-ucc.org
Intern Minister - Jakob Kroener	Cell: 262-353-8840	jakob.kroener@gmail.com
Church Sexton – Roger Lindgren	262-355-5673	stringerwis@hotmail.com
Church Custodian – Susy Stern	262-339-3679	
Office Manager - Robin Mock	262-626-4011 (church)	office@peace-ucc.org
Faith Formation Coordinator – Kathy Charland	262-626-4687	charland22056@gmail.com

PEACE UCC

Community Meal

Free to All!

February 7th
4:30-6:00 pm



Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic
Bread, Green Salad, Beverage
and Desserts

320 Main Street, Kewaskum

Peace Church-February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Prayer Shawl 1 pm		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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 7:00-8:30 Adult Faith Formation	XYZ CLUB Book Club Community Meal 4:30-6	Living the Question 10 am Grief Group 1 pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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 CONSISTORY 6:00 PM	XYZ CLUB Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 5:30 pm, Ash Wednesday Holden Prayer service 7:00 pm		Youth Faith Formation Retreat (2/16- 2/18)	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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 Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm	XYZ CLUB Banned Book 1:30 pm Holden Prayer 7pm	Living the Question 10 am Grief Group 1 pm		
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 5:30-7:00		LECTIONARY 10 AM	XYZ Holden Prayer 7pm			