



Peace United Church of Christ

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The Tidings



February 2023

From the Pastor's Study • February 2023

"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1, NIV)

We've written that verse so often on the walls of homes that we have built with Habitat for Humanity. I've just returned from a Habitat trip to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It was the first trip that we've managed to send forth since just before the pandemic. It felt really good to once again be engaged in this ministry that has had so much importance to our congregation for so long. As we struggled to get three young adults who were able to join us for the week, we were quickly remembering the trips when youth, young adult, and adult teams would each go out with a dozen instead of a handful. It's easy to look back at some time gone by and wistfully remember and become distracted from seeing how our God is a God who is active yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Our little group was amazing: in the work they did, in the witness that they offered to those around them, in the ways that they cared for one another as a model of beloved community. The experience was that longed-for reminder that God is at work in the here and now with the tools and people at hand. It's the reminder to keep refocusing on how God is at work in this moment. That is and has always been the work of God's faithful, and it's often been hard work. I think of the Israelites in the wilderness complaining about what they'd left behind in Egypt – garlic, flesh-pots – somehow forgetting the part of the story that they were also stuck in a reality of slavery that was less than desirable.

We are invited to be laborers with this God all the time. We are reminded to look at the work we are doing and to ask how it is that we see God at work guiding the ministries in which we engage. Since the last newsletter, we've begun our monthly free community meals with some indication that momentum may grow. We've heard from members of the congregation celebrating the chance to gather and we've watched as new faces from the community have come in to find the love of God freely shared in food, hospitality, spirit. We saw familiar faces return for the holidays, even as we grieved not seeing others whose presence we've longed for. We've encountered blessings and God's mercy revealing itself among us in so many different ways. The path forward never seems to be quite what we'd expect, but it's good.

When last I wrote, I was sharing about our German exchange pastor joining us at the beginning of the year. Well, as yet another reminder of our strained immigration system, we are now hoping that all of the hurdles for his visa will have been cleared for him to be able to arrive at the beginning of March. Once he joins us, we will have the blessing of sharing in ministry with him for 12 months. I would have hoped that the time had already begun... but God is also in the waiting, and God will be in the arriving.

Soon we will reenter the season of Lent. We'll turn again to Holden Evening Prayer, but now with an added personal connection of having Berit working at Holden Village for the year. As we gather for Ash Wednesday, Laura and I will have just returned from that retreat community in the Cascade mountains with new visions of the place that birthed this beloved musical setting of vespers. As we continue through Lent we'll be hearing from this year's confirmands with their insights and wisdom. At each step along the way we are invited to pause and look for where God is leading us. And we are to remember that the path isn't supposed to be merely of our own creation but rather the one which God is building, for otherwise it will all be in vain. May God bless us each in celebrating this day and all that God is doing with us and through us. Shalom,

Pastor Eric

Worship Schedule for February 2023

Sunday, February 5 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – COMMUNION

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) • Psalm 112:1-9 (10) • 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) •
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 12- 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20 • Psalm 119:1-8 • 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 •
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 19 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18 • Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 • 2 Peter 1:16-21 • Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday, February 22 – 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

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 26, 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 • Psalm 32 • Romans 5:12-19 • Matthew 4:1-11

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

February 5 Henry Ogi
February 6 Katie Singer
February 8 Ethan Singer
February 11 Ari Schemelin
February 14 Miles Kedroske
February 17 Aidan Polzin
February 20 Cole Loser, Lilly Van Beek
February 26 Marshall Kedroske, Malcom Kedroske

Birthdays (80 years plus)

Feb. 8 Colleen Roe (87)
Feb. 17 Joe Billmann (82)
Feb. 24 Barbara Westra (82)
Feb. 27 Hanna Bruenn (82)

Anniversaries

Feb. 28 Jeff & Julann Retzlaff (36)

Events and Activities

Lenten Services - Holden Prayer Services will take place on Wednesdays from February 22 – March 29th at 7:00 p.m. There will be Ecumenical services with the West Bend area churches on Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. The first service will be held on March 1, 2023 at Cedar Ridge with Pastor Eric preaching.

Book Group

The Peace Church Book Club will be held on Wednesday, February 1, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room across the hall from the church office. The group will be discussing "The Secrets We Kept" by Lara Prescott. Anyone interested in this discussion please contact Lynn Rusch at 262-306-4025 or lynnrusch@yahoo.com.

Upcoming reads include: "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles on March 1 and "The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller on April 5.

Scholarship Fund

Reminder to all 2022-23 Scholarship recipients: Your first semester grades need to be turned in to the church office no later than **Tuesday, February 1, 2023**. You can mail your transcripts to Peace Church, P.O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 or email them to office@peace-ucc.org. Any questions? Contact the church office at 262-626-4011.

Happy New Year!

To celebrate the new year, after 3 years of so little good news, we are excited to bring back our new version of **Dinner for Eight!**

We really are not changing anything about it except the name, because it was always a successful program here at Peace.

The thought behind it really just means that you reach out to me, Sandi, or call Robin at the church office and sign up as a GUEST or a HOST for brunch, lunch or dinner.

I will divide us into groups of 4-8 and each host will call each guest with a few possible options including the date, time and place.

Lunch and brunch are great options for many of us who do not drive at night and singles of all ages will be welcomed with open arms.

All we ask is that you and your gracious host decide if you will bring an appetizer, side dish or possibly dessert for the party.

The best part of this gathering is that you will likely go home with a new friend or two that you only greeted in a pew at church. Many of you will be surprised and excited to find that someone awesome has been there among us all along!

Sandi Radeztsky 262.744.9496. Robin 262.626.4011 office@peace-ucc.org
sandraraeradeztsky@gmail.com

Peace Pantry – It is somewhat more challenging to keep our Peace Pantry supplied during the cold months. Please do not leave canned or glass container foods in the pantry. Cereal, granola bars, frozen dinners, snacks, and paper goods are desired items.

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.

January 18, 2023	<u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u>	By: Harper Lee
February 15, 2023	<u>The Bluest Eye</u>	By: Toni Morrison
March 15, 2023	<u>1984</u>	By: George Orwell
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.

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.

Model Railroading is Fun! In November 2022, the Middle High Youth Group travelled to Germantown to run trains on my model railroad. I wonder if there might be a few adults that would like to do the same? On Saturday, March 4, starting about 10:00, I will host an operating session for those adults (male or female) that are interested in discovering the joy of model railroading. We will run trains until about noon, then take a lunch break and come back in the afternoon to run so more. For more information and directions to our home, contact **Russ Knoth** (262-832-4083). No experience is necessary, just a willingness to have fun.

Thank you to Peace Church

Dear Peace Church, Paul and I would like to thank you all for the many cards we have gotten. They mean a lot to us. Thank you and God bless you all. Paul & Shirley Reinders

Thank you from Peace Church

A huge thank you to all the church members who have been volunteering to assist with the monthly community meals. The meals have been well attending and we could not be doing this without the help of you!

The grade school children at **Holy Trinity Catholic School** teamed up with Peace United Church of Christ's Peace Pantry and provided over 278 food items and over 75 winter clothing items for the Peace Pantry. The pantry, located in the parking lot of Peace Church, has been serving the local community for the past three years. For Advent, the children at Holy Trinity chose to help stock the pantry with needed items. Peace Church thanks the students and teachers at Holy Trinity for the generous donations!



Financial Report

Financial Report December 2022

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of November 30, 2022	\$ (48,962)
Receipts	48,438
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	10,000
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$26,103)
Ending Balance as of 12/30/2022	<u>(\$16,627)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

VOC	150.00
Peace Pantry	370.00
Dr. Albrecht Free Clinic	100.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	125.00
Christmas	990.00
Thanksgiving	25.00
Giving Tree	215.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>1,975.00</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project \$(51,941.88)

Church Council Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2022

Those present: Kathy Charland, Clark Pearson, Melissa Polzin, Vance Reif, Mark Bocher, Paul Behring, Tom Kolb, Brad Preder, Kathy Mertz, John Lemke, Marnie Winninghoff, Pastor Eric and Becky Manthei

Members absent: Ken Singer, Lisa Atwater, and Karen Kletti

Meeting opened at 6:36 pm with a prayer offered by Brad Preder.

Motion from Melissa P and 2nd from Paul B to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the November minutes by Mark B with a 2nd from Tom K. Motion carried.

Financial report provided by Tom Kolb. Pick up of \$10k to the general fund for the month of Nov and anticipating another nice increase in Dec. Motion made by Melissa P to file the treasurer's report with a second from Vance R. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Hoping to have an updated draft of the Constitution for the Jan meeting, so that future Consistory comments can be gathered.
2. Jakob's visa is still pending immigration approval. All Church documents were provided the week after Thanksgiving. Housing will be provided by Cedar Ridge at no charge. In return he will be asked to speak and be present in that community. Jerry O'Connor is heading up the apartment review to determine what else will be required prior to his arrival. Still looking through vehicle options and how to insure.
3. John Lemke reviewed the updated investment policy changes. Main change is the requirement of the investment committee to make one of two suggestions on where to apply any gains to the Consistory at year end. Motion from committee to approve the changes. 1 abstain, and the rest was yes. Motion carried.

4. Kathy talked about ushering, coffee hour, etc for 2023. At this time her and Brad will be collaborating to make recommendations. Jan 1, 9:30am service only. Ushers will be Clark, Paul, Mark and Kathy.
5. Kathy spoke about stewardship moments. Looking at having people present to the Congregation for 2-3 minutes.
6. Kathy asked for recommendations on a visual for the general fund giving. John L to donate 2 display boards that potentially could be used for this effort. Marnie will work with Kathy.
7. Kathy requested that we think about donating future holiday income to the Community Meal.

Church Event Review:

1. Pancake breakfast – took in \$1100
2. Intergenerational supper/cookie decorating – decorated over 200 cookies with 20 participants.
3. \$130 in good will donations at the Community meal. Approximately 40 people attended. Of that 6 people from outside the church attended. Some in need and some for community building. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed.
4. Children's Christmas program was a success. Special thanks to Kathy and Mugs McFadden and all those involved in making this a nice program. Kathy got 3 mom's to agree help with next year's program.
5. Consistory meetings will start at 6pm starting in 2023.
6. Will vote for Consistory VP and secretary at the Jan meeting.
7. Trustee report written by Karen K and presented by Clark. Anonymous donation of \$10,000 made towards the kitchen fund and is greatly appreciated. Roger and Kathy Mertz donated the kitchen microwave. John Kletti, Roger Mertz, Howard Zemlicka, Emil Radetzky, Bill Becker, Karen Kletti and Pastor Eric donated time to fix the church sign and planter as well as various things in the kitchen. Many thanks to all!
8. Paul B presented an update on the Church cemetery project. Picture of the cemetery sign reviewed. Motion from committee to approve art for church cemetery. 1 No, with the rest yes. Motion carried. Discussion held on the columbarium. Looking to understand the cost/capacity. May lose 16 grave sites to have this structure.
9. 6 applicants applied for the janitor position. Personnel committee to start interviewing candidates. Both internal and external candidates applied.
10. Pastor Eric submitted his report. One member asked to transfer out and 2 transferred in from another church.
11. John Lemke passed out a printout containing his reflections from the past 6 years of serving and spoke to some important aspects.
12. Special thanks to the members who have finished their terms: John Lemke, Tom Kolb and Karen Kletti. Your time and talents are so appreciated!!

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer at 8:30pm.

Peace United Church of Christ 2023 Church Council Members & Staff

Paul Behring (12/31/23)	262-689-7888	paulbehring@yahoo.com
Kathy Charland (12/31/23) (Pres)	262-626-4687	charland22056@gmail.com
Pearson, Clark (12/31/23) (VP)	262-626-4594	clarkp@charter.net
Ken Singer (12/31/23)	262-389-4159	kensinger@live.com
Lisa Atwater (6/21/2024)	717-910-1561	lisaatwater@gmail.com
Mark Bocher (12/31/24)	262-685-7798	mbocher8@gmail.com
Becky Manthei (12/31/24) (Sec.)	262-388-9426	mantheibecky@gmail.com
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Brad Preder (12/31/2024)	262-388-0595	preder2314@charter.net
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Melinda Sargent (12/31/25)	802-272-4893	melindassargent@gmail.com
Tim Stoffel (12/31/25)	262-626-8248	4stoffel@gmail.com

Staff:

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
Church Sexton – Roger Lindgren	262-355-5673	stringerwis@hotmail.com
Church Custodian - Dan Rundquist	262-707-3899 (cell)	
Office Manager - Robin Mock	262-626-4011 (church)	office@peace-ucc.org
Faith Formation Coordinator – Kathy Charland (interim)		charland22056@gmail.com

February 2023

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