



Peace United Church of Christ

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The Tidings

March 2023



From the Pastor's Study • February 2023

It was a wonderful blessing to be nestled in the Cascade mountains last week at Holden Village. Having this time just before entering Lent couldn't have been more perfect. Here I was gathered with Laura and Berit in a spectacularly beautiful setting, living a very different rhythm of life.

I have heard about Holden Village since I was a college student, but I had never gone to experience this remote community surrounded by the majesty of God's creation. The snow frosted trees and subtle play of light and shadow on the mountains took my breath away. The structure of life in this beloved community breathed new life into my spirit. Each day I centered myself with a group of people who gathered to practice Tai Chi outside on the loading dock of the main lodge. The practice we were introduced to was Shibashi, 18 postures, a form of Tai Chi which was claimed by a group of Asian Christian women who were seeking to embrace their own heritage. They recognized that their Christian faith had oppressive colonial origins, and they were seeking to reclaim the ways that God's spirit had been woven into the fabric of their culture and history even before Christianity arrived on their shores. During my time at Holden, morning Shibashi became a beautiful body prayer. As we turned and moved and breathed the cold air with the mountains surrounding us and the trees occasionally anointing us with snow bombs, it was hard not to feel aligned with scripture's proclamations of the trees and the mountains praising God. Each evening closed with "Sacred Space" - one night was Holden Evening Prayer, another was Mountain Vespers with the children of the village dancing wildly in the aisle (think Heehaw meets church), another night it was singing Taizé chants gathered around candles and prayer. Not everyone participated in these opportunities, but for me these rhythms reinforced a community that joined together for meals and for stacking wood, for cleaning the dishes and stoking the boilers... as guests we were welcome to share in a few of those activities.

This experience of living in beloved community is one of the things that I cherish about retreats, habitat, and canoe trips. They are moments when we have a chance to align our whole lives to living our faith in renewed ways. The season of Lent is intended to be a time of realigning our lives to God's ways. The word is simply rooted in the word "lengthening". For those of us in the northern hemisphere our Lenten journey include celebrating ever more sunlight expanding into our lives, a perfect metaphor for preparation for Easter. The early church instituted the 40 days of Lent as parallel to the 40 days of preparation that Jesus went through in the wilderness, a marker of time that appears often throughout scripture as a season of preparation. I have always struggled with lent as being a time when people would heap on a little extra guilt and feel the weight of how much they needed to repent. This sense of claiming our brokenness only has theological validity if we first

celebrate how completely God loves us, with no exceptions. The gloomy, burdensome guilt that can be central to Lent often squashes that reminder of original blessing. Increasingly, I find I am crying out as loudly and passionately as I can that our faith is not intended to be transactional but rather relational. We hear again and again that there is nothing that we can do to earn God's love, that it is freely offered. We celebrate the church as being the bearer of Grace, unmerited love and forgiveness. And yet, we get caught in a long history of “shoulding” on ourselves and others. Our whole journey of faith is an invitation to return to the love of God, so that this love might both transform us and others. The journey of Lent might more faithfully be lived as the turning back from the brokenness of our world and our lives and the ways that we may perpetuate or contribute to that brokenness, to turn back to the ways of God's extravagant love. What if we emphasized that choice with positive language instead of shoulding on ourselves and others? For years I have sung Holden Evening Prayer last week someone lifted up that their favorite line from that service was the one in the Magnificat when the whole congregation sings Mary's proclamation: “you have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.” As I lived with this sacred community for a week I was struck by how many of the people had been deeply hurt by the church. How a transactional faith had named them as not worthy or not welcome within the confines of their religious traditions. I started me thinking about the real work for us as people of faith during this season of Lent. And that work would be to recognize our belovedness to God. The same narrative that speaks of our being dust, dry soil, speaks of our being God-formed and loved and breathed into. And not just us but all of humanity. It strikes me that the most important work of the church in this moment is for us to do the work of allowing God's love to claim us fully – and then to let that love flow through us to be shared with all, not because anyone has earned it, or offered the right proclamation of faith or doctrine or creed, but because that how God loves!

What would it look like if instead of giving up something for lent, or feeling heavy laden, if we understood our call to repentance to be one of turning back to the love of God. If you want to put reminders in your life like not eating meat or foregoing chocolate, terrific, but use those markers as reminders to allow yourself to know how deeply you are loved and then to love. Could we let the Lenten journey be one of shedding our transactional theology in favor of a relational theology that draws us ever deeper to the spirit of God which has sought to take our breath away and to fill our spirits with new life since the beginnings of time?

For me, I will be trying to practice Shibashi each morning and remembering that different space of being in relationship with God, breathing in love and breathing out anything that would keep me from God's love. Is there some small way that each of us might redouble our efforts to live that extravagant love of God?

May God bless us on the journey,

Pastor Eric

Worship Schedule for March 2023

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

Second Sunday in Lent – Women's Sunday

Genesis 12:1-4a • Psalm 121 • Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 • John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

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

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 • Psalm 95 • Romans 5:1-11 • John 4:5-42

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 7:10-14 • Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10 • Hebrews 10:4-10 • Luke 1:26-38

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

Mar 2 Madilynn Jacobs
Mar 10 Landon Luther
Mar 14 Mia Dornacker
Mar 18 Logan O'Brien-Flasch

Anniversaries

Mar 3 John & Shelley Oswald (50)
Mar 12 Sarah & Brian Van Beek (18)
Mar 13 Ruth & Ken Henk (29)
Jared & Melissa Polzin (19)
Mar 26 Robbie & Cheri Manthei
Mar 29 Kathy & Fran Charland (43)

Birthdays (80 years plus)

Mar 2 Gloria Liepert (92)
Judy Nonhof (86)
Mar 11 Mary Billmann (81)
F. Lyn Peterson (86)
Mar 23 Dolores Terlinden (99)
Mar 29 Arlene Lemke

Events and Activities

Lenten Services - Holden Prayer Services will take place on Wednesdays from February 22 – March 29th at 7:00 p.m. at Peace Church. There will also 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, March 1, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room across the hall from the church office. The group will be discussing "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles. Anyone interested in this discussion please contact Lynn Rusch at 262-306-4025 or lynnrusch@yahoo.com. Upcoming reads include: "The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller on April 5.

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.

March 15, 2023

1984

By: George Orwell

April 19, 2023

Nickel Boys

By: Colson Whitehead

May 17, 2023

Catcher in the Rye

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.

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.

Dinner for Eight – is now Food with Friends.

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

Reach out to 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

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!

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.

Financial Report

Financial Report January 2022

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ (16,627)
Receipts	20,082
Expenses	(\$31,570)
Ending Balance as of 12/30/2022	<u>(\$28,115)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

Peace Pantry	339.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	20.00
Christmas (2023)	35.00
Easter	35.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>429.00</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project \$(52,431.99)

Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2023

Those present: Kathy Charland, Clark Pearson, Melissa Polzin, Vance Reif, Mark Bocher, Tim Stoffel, Kathy Mertz, Marnie Winninghoff, Lisa Atwater, Chris Rhode, Melinda Sargent, Pastor Eric and Becky Manthei

Members absent: Paul Behring, Brad Preder, and Ken Singer

Meeting opened at 6:03 pm with a prayer from Mark B.

Approval of Agenda with additions with motion coming from Clark P and a second from Vance R. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from prior month with a motion coming from Vance R, and a second from Clark P. Motion carried.

A warm welcome to our new members: Tim, Melinda, Kathy and Chris

Financial report given by Pastor. Motion to place the report on file for audit by Clark P, and a second from Lisa A. Motion carried.

Pastor's report was sent ahead of time.

Old Business:

1. Next Constitution committee meeting will be on Wed, Jan 11, 2023, at 4:15pm. Consistory invited to attend and provide input if they are available. We will then be sent the updates to that we can have further discussion and/or vote for the changes in Feb.

2. Update on Jacob's arrival provided by Pastor. His 1 year of service will start on the day he arrives. Currently we are waiting for his visa to be issued so that he may come to the US.

3. Kathy C reported that schedules have been started for greeters, ushers, coffee hour etc. for 2023. More to continue on this front.

4. Stewardship moments reported on by Kathy C. Chris R started the stewardship moment on January 8th. Next up will be Sandi Radetzky on Jan 15th. Plan is to continue this with others in the weeks/months to come.

5. Marnie and Pastor Eric agreed to help design a visual for our general fund giving.

6. Clark P and Becky M have agreed to continue their roles as Vice President and Secretary. The Vice President role will be reviewed in a few months as Clark's term expires in December so it would be great to have another individual serve in this role alongside Kathy to learn more about the President's role.

New Business:

1. Motion from personnel committee to approve the hiring of Amanda Dehler as custodian. She would start working on a few select areas, and then expanding hours and areas upon Dan's retirement. Motion carried with all voting yes.

2. Looking for someone to change boiler pumps once a month as our service contract does not include this service. Vance R. advised that he could take care of handling this task.

3. Employee checks are now solely electronic deposited.

4. Discussion and assignments given on the Pillar stewards. Looking for people to review the Pillar document and determine if there are areas that they would like to be a steward or team leader.

5. Vance reported on some ceiling options for the sanctuary. He has been meeting with other companies, contractors as well as individuals to review ideas. More discussion to continue. Pastor will assist Vance and have some further discussions as well.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:46 pm.

Next Meeting: Jan. 24, 2023, at 6pm to review Pillars and Feb. 14, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. for monthly Consistory meeting.

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			XYZ CLUB BOOK CLUB 9:30 am Community Meal Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	Prayer Shawl Group – 1 PM		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Communion 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 Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	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 Holden Prayer Service 7 pm			
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 Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	Grief Group – 1 pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
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	XYZ CLUB Holden Prayer Service 7 pm			