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# The Tidings May 2021



## From the Pastor's Study • May 2021

"Are we there yet?" Those simple words have been running through my mind this morning — sometimes mocking, sometimes serious, crop up on any long road-trip. This morning they propelled me back to the long drives across country that were a part of every summer during my childhood. Growing up in Chicagoland with grandparents in the Boston and Denver areas meant that there were lots of journeys across long, seemingly endless states. At some point, I remember a cassette tape deck being added to the journey. For as long as its batteries held out, it sat at the ready on the front seat between my parents. What I remember was that one of the favorite responses to our antsyness was Frank Sinatra crooning "High Hopes" — "...everyone knows an ant can't move a rubber tree plant! But he had high hopes... he had high hopes... he had high apple pie in the sky hopes..." A family singing in a hot car plying across the endless plains of Nebraska was somehow re-oriented to the possibility instead of just the present frustration. Somehow, I think that all of that travelling as a kid, and maybe the introduction of perspective re-orienting distractions, helped me to fall in love with the idea of the journey having value and not just the destination.

This year has been a journey, and it has exhausted most of us as we've waited for the destination of normalcy – "are we there yet?!?" These are good moments to remember that God journeys with us. Faith and grace are not destinations, but an orientation to a persistent, patient God who seems to love journeys. For God, those journeys are how God has always shaped God's people into a different way of seeing their lives and our world. And of course, it doesn't take much pondering of the stories of scripture to remember that God's people have struggled and whined repeatedly and sometimes it has seemed like the cassette-deck-of-reorienting-inspiration has run out of battery power. But God keeps moving forward with us, hoping that we'll come to cherish the blessings of the journey.

We are in the midst of the Easter Season – another time when God's people are invited to contemplate how the triumph of the good news has touched the world, past, present, and future. The season challenges us to be engaged with being kindlers of God's light in the world, and bearers of God's high hopes for all of creation. That's incredibly good news, but it's also hard work. We continue to live in a world that feels deeply divided. Politics, race, and even how we navigate a pandemic have each become painful reminders of how easy it is to let frustration and impatience overwhelm the perspective of the journey. I recently heard someone speak what used to be a more familiar phrase: "in my family growing up, we didn't see race..." and I was struck with a new sadness. There was a time that we put on a band-aid and thought that the best thing would be if we just didn't see difference. What we know is that this is only comfortable if you happen to be one of the people who has always felt seen. Our faith proclaims that each of us is created in the image of God. Our faith proclaims repeatedly that God's love and

salvation is intended for all the earth. Yet sadly, instead of looking at a diverse landscape of humanity as an invitation to more fully understand the height and depth and breadth and diversity of God's love, we sell out to a more comfortable vision of homogenized unity.

We just heard the verdict in the George Floyd trial. Many have spoken of this as a pivotal moment for many in our world. Others have been rightly frustrated with that assessment as they note that had this been a white man, we would have expected nothing else. Even that deep division of perspective speaks to the continued challenge for us to work to understand and honor one another through trying to recognize the very different life experiences that people have. Jesus' prayer for unity doesn't come about by everyone holding hands and singing kumbaya as an affirmation that we're all the same, but rather by joining hands and celebrating that we are united in being equally valued, equally seen, equally cherished icons through which to see the face of God. The journey we are on is one that will be long and arduous. Two of the pandemics that we face, Covid-19 and racism, aren't going to disappear quickly. We can whine and get frustrated and keep asking "aren't we there yet?!" or we can open our hearts' minds and see what we might learn along the way. How might both of these struggles invite us to see and love our neighbor more deeply? How can the diversity of people and ideas become a chance to celebrate how great and vast is the love of our God? One of the things that I've cherished about our congregation is one of the same things that I now feel as a division, and that is the diversity of politics and theology within our church family. We have a chance to do the work to grow. We have the chance to expand our vision of God through all of the differences among us and around us... or we have the chance to limit God to our own perspectives and our own self certainties. When we learn to embrace the journey — maybe even trying to love the change of rhythm — a long journey may even become a pilgrimage of the soul. There is much for us to see and to learn together.

Just a year ago I turned to these words from First Peter: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that you may be exalted in due time. Cast all your anxieties on God, because God cares for you. [...] Steadfast in your faith, know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to eternal glory, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To God be the power forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5:6-7 & 9-11) As we continue to lean into this Easter Season may we find the light of God beckoning us to have high hopes and to keep growing.

May God bless us,

Postor ERIC

## Worship Schedule for May 2021

#### **Updates from the Regathering Committee:**

Let me begin by continuing to acknowledge that every decision that we've made through the current pandemic is necessarily flawed. I am confident that in a couple of years we will have the hindsight and the depth of scientific understanding to know what actions were the most important for us to take, and which may have been unnecessary. This is, of course, the reality of science that is seeking to understand something that is "novel", new. It is very exciting to see how much we have learned in a short while, and at the same time we are seeing clearly that we are a society where we expect things to move even more rapidly than they are. Patience is a fragile virtue. Now is an extraordinary time to remember what scripture teaches us about loving one another:

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other! ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:13-15, 22-24 (CEB)

We met again this last week to try to discern how to best keep moving forward with everyone's concerns in mind, as well as the overarching reality that we are continuing to navigate a pandemic. We agreed that we will continue following the guidelines of the CDC, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, while using the local data generated by the County Health Department. At this time, the county numbers direct us to limit our activities to 25% of capacity (50 worshippers in the sanctuary, the worship leaders are in addition to that number). **We are not requiring sign-ups for services.** If we exceed our capacity, we have overflow capacity with a live stream in the both the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

We are certainly hoping that increased vaccinations and continued care will bring our county's Covid numbers down to a point where our advised capacities quickly increase. Those numbers will also impact our resumption of other church activities.

We will continue to follow the CDC guidance that requires people to wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose whenever they are meeting in groups at church. We will continue social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, and all those other mitigation measures to which we have all become accustomed.

We are trying to reintroduce as many parts of "normal" as we can in our present "new normal":

- We are inviting people who are in worship to sing quietly or to hum.
  - We still will not have choirs at this time.
- We will be resuming in-person Sunday School with our Summer Sunday School! beginning on June 6<sup>th</sup> during our 9:30 service.
- We will be returning to our normal service times of 8:00 and 9:30 beginning May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Beginning May 30<sup>th</sup> we will reintroduce coffee hour in a new way. We will hold Coffee Hour outside on the lawn and gazebo after each service, weather permitting. If the weather is bad we will not have coffee hour that day/service (we won't be moving our fellowship inside). If you are willing to help with this, please contact the church office.
- We are planning to hold Vacation Bible School in person the last week of July.
- We are inviting the XYZ club to return for their weekly cards and fellowship.
- We will welcome the resumption of any other groups as long as they/we abide by the current limits and guidelines.

There will be TWO SUNDAYS when we will plan to be in Riverhill Park:

- May 23<sup>rd</sup> with services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Confirmation will be during the 10:00 a.m. service.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> we are hoping to hold our church Pignic beginning with one worship service at 9:30 a.m.
  - Very sadly our Pignic coordinator, Kevin Lehman, died unexpectedly. If anyone would be willing to step up to help with portions of the Pignic, please contact the Church Office.

We will continue streaming all worship services to our YouTube Channel at "Peace UCC Kewaskum" or you can find a link from our website: <a href="www.peace-ucc.org">www.peace-ucc.org</a> or through our Facebook page. We are also now streaming all funeral services and posting those online. And we have had a chance to stream and post our first Baptism! Check it out.

Please pay attention to the Service times as they will be changing back to our prepandemic normal 8:00 am. and 9:30 am. starting on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

We encourage everyone to please continue to act with care and caution. We have been trying to take all practical steps toward mitigation of the pandemic as a Congregation, and now is certainly not the time to stop trying to be a part of the solution. Get vaccinated when you are able, this not only helps to protect yourself

but also helps to reduce community spread and slow viral mutations. Please do your part in thinking about how your choices impact all of our community and our world. Our commitment is to continue seeking to love our neighbors as ourselves!

#### **Lectionary for May 2021**

Sunday, May 2– 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church** - Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday, May 9 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 ● Psalm 98 ● 1 John 5:1-6 ● John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 16 - 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 ● Psalm 1 ● 1 John 5:9-13 ● John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 23 - 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **RIVERHILL PARK**Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 ● Psalm 104:24-34, 35b ● Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 ● John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 30 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Peace Church
Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29 ● Romans 8:12-17 ● John 3:1-17

### Events and Activities

Tuesdays at 10 am. - Lectionary group. Each week we meet in fellowship hall and study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. If you have any questions, contact pastor Eric or the church office.

#### **Book Reading List for 2020 – 2021**

The Peace Church book discussion group will be meeting Wednesday, April 5, 2021, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. to discuss the book "Ash Again, Yes" by Mary Beth Keane. The selected book for June is "Finding Chika" by Mitch Albom (June 2). The group does not meet in July or August. For more information, contact Lynn Rusch at <a href="mailto:lynnrusch@yahoo.com">lynnrusch@yahoo.com</a> or by phone (262-306-4025).

#### **Canada Canoe Trip**

Peace Church is planning a Canada Canoe Trip. This trip would be dependent on if the Canadian border will be opened to visitors this summer. We are tentatively scheduled with the outfitter (Canoe Canada) to be on the water for the week of Aug.  $8^{th} - 13^{th}$ . The Peace Church group will drive up to Canada (town of Atikokan, Ontario) on Saturday, Aug  $7^{th}$  and return home on Saturday Aug 14. The group would lead the Peace Church worship services on Sunday the  $15^{th}$ .

All participants will need a valid US passport. Cost will be in the range of \$450-\$550 per person. A \$200 per person down payment is needed by the middle of June, assuming that the border is opened by then. HS youth, college age young people and adults are all welcomed to participate.

#### 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

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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 **June 1**.

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, 2022, 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).

<u>United Church Camps, Inc. (UCCI)</u> is excited to be open and welcoming guests for the 2021 season. As a valued ministry partner, we want to share with you some new programming and reassure you that the health safety of guests is our top priority.

Essential Worker Sabbath is a new programming option that invites those who work in frontline healthcare and other essential fields to come experience rest and renewal at one of our beautiful sites.

The past year has been an especially difficult one for frontline healthcare professionals and essential workers. United Church Camps, Inc. (UCCI) is offering sabbath time to those in our UCCI family who have given so much!

**Essential workers** from all fields are invited to come rest and renew during 2021 at Moon Beach, Pilgrim Center and Cedar Valley. Re-connect with Creator and creation on your own or bring your family to stay at one of our beautiful sites. For more information: ucci essential worker sabbath

#### Peace Church - Camp Scholarship

\*For camp, workshop, or retreat experiences at Wisconsin United Church of Christ Camps - Moon Beach, St. Germain, WI or - Pilgrim Center, Ripon, WI that have a fee associated with them.

- \*Any member and/or their children, in good standing, of Peace UCC, Kewaskum, WI.
- \* One hundred (\$100) dollars per camper for any "full week" camp and fifty (\$50) dollars per camper for "three-day" or "weekend" camps.
- \*After completing registration for one of the UCCI church camps, bring/send a copy of your camp registration confirmation to the Peace Church office. The church treasurer will forward a check for the appropriate scholarship amount to the corresponding camp, with funds to be placed into the individual camper's or family's account. For information all the UCCI camps go to: https://ucci.org/

Peace Church always welcomes donations to the camp scholarship fund.

<u>Peace Church Pignic</u> – the Peace Church Pignic will take place on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at River Hill Park. Mark your calendars. If you are interested in assisting with the Pignic, please contact the church office at 262-626-4011 or <u>office@peace-ucc.org</u>. More information will be coming in future Tidings.

<u>Confirmation</u> - Confirmation will be during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at River Hill Park.

<u>Baptism -</u> Congratulation to Jake and Jessica Manogue on the baptism of their son, Watson Dax Manogue on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The baptism was performed by Pastor

Eric Kirkegaard at Peace Church and a recording is posted on Peace Church's YouTube site.

#### **Thank you Peace Church!**

Dear Peace UCC, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank each and every congregation member and staff of Peace UCC Church for their giving spirit, even through these especially hard times navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic. I know this past year has been financially difficult for many of us and I cannot even begin to state how appreciative I am and the positive impact the Peace UCC Scholarship has had, thank you for your generosity and kindness.

I am in my last few weeks of being a student! I will, as of May 1, 2021, achieve my dream of becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy as a Marshall University graduate. I have finished my final clinical internship in North Carolina and have been offered a job at Pivot Physical Therapy upon passing my licensure exam. I have gained much knowledge in patient care this past year and am honored to be starting my career as a community and godly servant.

Thank you for your continuous support, belief, and prayers over my long student journey and I cannot wait to give back to others of the community someday soon! See you in May! Sincerely, Stephanie Henk

#### **Host Family Needed!**

Natalia, 16, from Bolivia, will be attending Kewaskum HS in September, and she is in need of a host family. She loves to sing in the choir, enjoys volleyball, tennis, skating, swimming, biking, bowling, and movies. Natalia loves cats, and dogs, and would love any type of family, single parent, kids, or no, and is a good student. She will pay all expenses, has medical insurance, and speaks English, as well as Spanish. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact:

Carrie Schulz, Nacel Open Door Coordinator 262-544-1183 office 414-899-3890 cell

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

May 3 Mae Evans-7

May 3 Katelyn Scannell-15

May 4 Elsa Kirkegaard-18

May 7 Aaron Singer-18

May 17 Shelby Falk-16

May 17 Audrey Weinreich-13

May 18 Sydney Bayer-10

#### Birthdays (80 years plus)

May 3 Herman Panzer-86

May 4 Mary Tesser-87

May 10 Rosemary Frank-91

May 13 Verna Faisst-93

May 15 Lucille Swanson-87

May 24 Don Neitzel-83

May 31 Judy Price-80

#### **Anniversaries**

May 2 Bill & Karen Grahl-57, John & Debbie Guillaume-29

May 6 Dave & Brenda Roehrig-21

May 10 Joanne & Ron Amerling-52

May 15 Robert & Barbara Butzlaff-45

May 17 Mike & Karen Paul-25

May 19 Dana & Jeff Fochs-9, Robert & Joann Manthei-49

May 20 Shelly & Peter Humphrey-33

May 22 Carl & Jen Eisen-6, Carol & James Roe-49

May 24 Jack & Jennifer Chamberlain-23, Mark & Mary Steinhardt-41

May 26 Jim & Doreen Mohr-43

May 27 Cal & Sharon Rauch-49

May 30 Matt & Jenny Kivell-12, Kevin & Laura Stautz-18



# **Summer Sunday School**

Peace Church - Kewaskum

June 13 – August 15, 2021

Time: During Late Service

Place: Church or Park (TBD)

"Taste and See that the Lord is Good!"

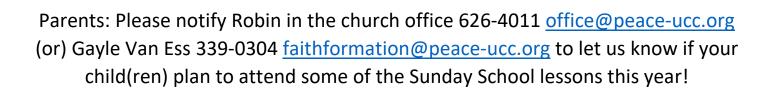
Psalm 34:8

Children age 4 through incoming

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are invited to participate!

Middle and High School students are invited to assist.

Teacher: Ms. Alexia Polzin



#### **2021 Peace Church Summer Sunday School**

Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

June 13 Ice Cream Sundaes Grow Closer to God on Sundays

2 Chronicles 7:1-20 Solomon dedicates the Temple

June 20 Blizzards and Flurries Jesus loves EVERYONE

Acts 10:9-48 Peter and Cornelius

June 27 Banana Splits Give one hurt from your heart to Jesus

Mark 9:14-29 Jesus heals a boy with an unclean spirit

\*July 4 Project for Shut-in Members of Peace Church

July 11 Root Beer Floats We need to accept Jesus into our hearts

Romans 10:9-12 Openly declare Jesus as Lord

July 18 <u>Ice Cream Sandwiches</u> Call on Jesus when you're trapped

Exodus 14 Parting of the Red Sea

July 25 Frozen Yogurt Think of ways you can share about Jesus

Matthew 13:31-35 Parables of Mustard Seed and Yeast

\*August 1 <u>Project for Shut-in Members of Peace Church</u>

August 8 <u>Ice Cream Cone</u> Cut out one thing so you can focus more on Jesus

Philippians 3:7-14 Our Time is Limited

August 15 Klondike Bar Jesus should be the #1 thing in your life

Matthew 13:33-46 Parables of Hidden Treasure and Pearl

Teacher: Alexia Polzin Time: During Late Church Location: Church or Park (TBD)



Join us for a week of adventure at "TREASURED" VBS!

Ages 3-11

July 26-30, 2021

Registration 8:00 am

Program 8:30-11:30 am

Parents, family members, friends, neighbors, and all teens are invited to participate as leaders and helpers with games, snacks, crafts, music, and lessons.

Kids: Watch for registration forms - Coming soon!



Contact Robin in the Church Office 626-4011 office@peace-ucc.org
Jamie Piittmann
jamie.piittmann@gmail.com

Pam Berres pjberres@gmail.com

for information, or to volunteer!

# Financial Reports

## Financial Report March 2021

#### **General Fund**

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of February 28, 2021	\$ 7509
Receipts	27500
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$27852)
Ending Balance as of 2/28/2021	<u>7,157</u>

#### **Benevolence Receipts**

One Great Hour of Sharing	985.00
Strengthen the Church	5.00
Neighbors in Need	5.00
CUE	10.00
VOC	20.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	50.00
Good Friday	50.00
Easter	70.00
Maundy Thursday	50.00
Lenten Offering	580.00
Ash Wednesday Offering	25.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	1850.00

Additional Information:

Project Balances as of 3/31/2021

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project

13,452.00

# **Consistory Minutes**

#### Peace UCC Consistory Meeting – March 9, 2021 Virtual Meeting via ZOOM and in-person

Members present: Paul Behring, Kathy Charland (Vice President), Karen Kletti, Tom Kolb, John A. Lemke (President), John C. Lemke, Becky Manthei, Clark Pearson, Ken Singer

Also present: Pastor Eric, Cathy Stern (Treasurer), Gayle Van Ess

(Roger Mertz(Secretary) is out of town and Kathy Charland will take the minutes of the meeting)

- A. Call to Order
- B. Opening Prayer
- C. Approval of Agenda (a): **John Sr**, /**Karen Kletti Unanimous** (add Gayle VE to the agenda)
- D. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2021meeting (b) \*strike the endowment item from the minutes. It was a mute point and did not need addressing Clark/Paul Unanimous

(added agenda item) \*\*\*Gayle VE Presented a letter to the consistory. Thanking everyone for the support she has had. After August, she will be retired from her jobs at Peace UCC. She feels the need to be available to support her family who are all out of state.

Eric: grateful for her service and for allowing us sufficient time to find a replacement.

Becky: praised Gayle for all she has done!

Cathy S: thanking Gayle as well.

E. Financial Report (c1 – c4) General fund is in the positive! \$7500 to the good! Large donation to Memorial fund. (\$89,000 estimated). Current trend will keep us going in the right direction.

Robin played a large role in the transfer of Robert Neumann's estate funds. A letter had to be requested to verify that we are indeed a church! Robin's persistence got the job done! Thank you Robin.

Eric: need a discussion on how these funds will be used. Ex. Should we keep some of the money to be used as an annual donation, as he was a very strong and faithful giver and our gen fund will be impacted with his passing. John: committee needed to discuss the policies for use of memorial fund distribution. Eric: large donations ARE sent to the memorial fund for holding. But this does not mean we don't use it for projects etc. WE want to keep the spirit of the donor at the forefront. Becky: (on memorial committee) their committee needs guidance on policies for distribution.

# Action item: Deacons will get together to talk policy and meet with the memorial committee We discussed our church investments. Clark/John accept financials. Unanimous

- F. Pastor's Report (d)
  - 50 people limit per service
  - No need to register to attend
  - We are seeing enough attendance that we shall keep 2 services.
  - We are trying to get the equipment for streaming relocated to the balcony.
  - TV's are now connected in the Narthex and Fellowship hall. If attendance is high, people can watch in one of these places as well.
- G. President's Report What is new or needed? Memorial Committee update on projects

\*added item: discussion of Palm Sunday and Easter services
Action: should we do a drive through event and hand out palms? Ideas? Brat fry?
Thursday April 25 will be date for handing out palms

H. Old Business- memorial fund task force Chili sale - \$812.00 to General Fund I. New Business – Replacement of desktops in the church office

#### Action: Direct the trustees to look for a company to replace/repair the desktop

- J. Committee Reports
  - CE: We will offer summer Sunday School either in church or in the park.
  - Constitution committee: they met and have decided they need to connect with a representative of each committee before finalizing their recommendations.
  - Kitchen: meeting with Fein to get a recommendation on sizes and types of materials to use

K. Lord's Prayer
L. Adjournment 8:20 pm **John/Ken Unanimous**Next Meeting: April 13 –6:30 p.m. Consistory