



Peace United Church of Christ

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The Tidings

May 2023



From the Pastor's Study • May 2023

My college friends have been sending photos the last couple of weeks as they watch for signs of spring. In Minneapolis it was the snow finally melting again off the table on the patio allowing it to emerge from its rounded winter mound. In Chicagoland it was the daffodils pushing their leaves up through last year's dead leaves. And then here this week, the world seems to have exploded with crocus and daffodils, sunshine, and birdsong. What a glorious unfolding of the Easter proclamation. I know that scientists can explain how plants know when it's time to push through the snow, or these early flowers know when to bloom... for me, I'm content to receive their witness as wonder and inspiration.

The Gospel for the second Sunday of Easter always has the followers of Jesus gathered in a room behind locked doors for fear of those whom they have challenged. In their days it was the religious leaders who were frightened by how Jesus' popular message had attracted so much attention and so many people. They were concerned that this message of love and grace might upset the status quo. They might lose the fragile arrangement that they had with the Roman empire that allowed them to maintain the Temple and continue to practice their religion. Fear can be a powerful paralyzing force. Into that uncertainty Jesus speaks words of blessing, he breathes his spirit upon them and tells them that they, too, are sent into the world. It's an idea that most of us know well as a part of our faith, that we are to share God's love with the world. But how often do we think about what it means to breathe in God's spirit and then to boldly go out beyond our doubts, beyond our fears, into a world beyond the closed doors to proclaim God's love and light to the world?

Maybe that's the idea that amazes me with the natural world. Those crocuses begin pushing up to the sunshine even when they're covered with snow, even when the temperatures seem far from the melting for which we long. I can't yet see the spring, but they believe in it, they trust in that promise with their whole being. And those flowers of spring aren't timid, they bloom with radiant colors and abundant proclamation that they know what we may doubt. Resurrection faith comes in lots of different forms. When I look through eyes of faith I see that invitation to be bold witnesses of beauty and love even when we aren't seeing it yet manifest around us.

We are living in a world where the news speaks of steady incidence of gun violence, of legislation that would readily ban other's rights, whether that's book bans or the steady legislative attacks on the LGBTQ community or expanding our deepening understandings of our nation's complex history with regards to diversity and equity, and who has and hasn't had a place at the table. Fear can silence those who would speak a word of expansive hope and love. And yet God would breathe a spirit of power upon us to get out and bloom with a witness as bold as the risen Christ.

Where are we called to be bold, or even bolder? Is it in the extravagant welcome of our blossoming table fellowship in the community meal? Or how about in those who gather to read "banned books" and engage in discussing them? Or how about as we look to participating in this year's Pride Parade in Milwaukee and look to how we can create safe spaces that proclaim ever more deeply that "all are welcome here," for the love of God knows no bounds!

Our Easter journey is blossoming before us every day! May we each be the boldest bloom of God's love that we can be. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed...

Pastor Eric

Worship Schedule for May 2023

Sunday, May 7 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – Communion

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 • Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 • 1 Peter 2:2-10 • John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 14, 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31 • Psalm 66:8-20 • 1 Peter 3:13-22 • John 14:15-21

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scholarship Committee Pancake Breakfast

Acts 1:6-14 • Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 • 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 • John 17:1-11

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

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30 • Psalm 104:24-34, 35b • 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21 • John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

May 3 Katelyn Scannell

May 17 Shelby Falk

Anniversaries

May 2 Bill & Karen Grahl (59)

John & Debbie Guillaume (31)

May 6 David & Brenda Roehrig (23)

May 14 Blaine & Lisa Atwater (35)

May 15 Robert & Barbara Breitag (47)

May 19 Robert & JoAnne Manthei (51)

May 20 Shelly & Peter Humphrey (35)

May 24 Mark & Mary Steinhardt (43)

May 26 Jim & Doreen Mohr (45)

May 27 Cal & Sharon Rauch (51)

May 30 Matt & Jenny Kivell (14)

Kevin & Laura Stautz (20)

Birthdays (80 years plus)

May 3 Herman Panzer (88)

May 4 Mary Tessar (89)

May 9 Loretta Eimermann (97)

May 10 Rosemary Frank (93)

May 15 Lucille Swanson (89)

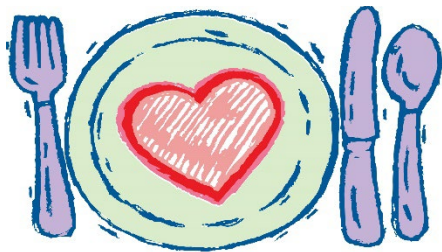
May 24 Chuck Atwater (84)

Don Neitzel (85)

May 30 Jim Breitbach (87)

May 31 Judy Price (82)

Events and Activities



COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next Community Meal will take place on May 3rd, and the first Wednesday of each month. The next meal will be pulled chicken broccoli casserole, fresh fruit cups, and Texas Roadhouse dinner rolls with honey butter (generously donated by the West Bend Texas Roadhouse), desserts and beverages. All are welcome! Please contact the church office if you have any questions or wish to help. We are always looking for volunteers and desserts! Sneak peek into future meals: June: Brats & Hot Dogs. We will also be hosting a brat fry in the church parking lot on Sunday, July 23rd. There will be a break in Community meals for July and August.

Book Group

The Peace Church Book Group will be meeting Wednesday morning, May 5, to discuss "The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller. The group meets in the music room across from the church office at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Lynn Rusch (lynnrusch@yahoo.com or 262-306-4025).

The book group meets September through June on the first Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. The book selection for June is "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom. The group does not meet in July or August; then resumes the first Wednesday in September.

Band Together for Banned Books - This book club will be held on 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.

May 17, 2023 **Catcher in the Rye** By: J D Salinger

We will take a 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.



Altar Flowers – please consider donating towards the flowers that are on the altar on Sundays. You may request that your donation be in memory or in honor of someone. Contact the church office via email or phone to make your request. Thank you!

Prayer Shawl group will not meet in June, July, and August. They will meet at 1:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the church library. The group makes prayer shawls for shut-ins, people recovering from illness or surgery, and white shawls for baptisms. If you are interested in more information on this group, please call Nancy Panzer at 262-626-2817.

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 accomplishments 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

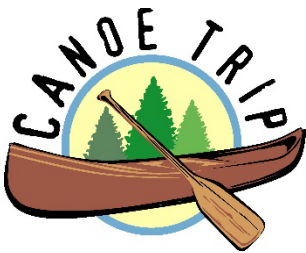
Members may re-apply annually. Applicants may request aid toward the education of their choice beyond High School.

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. The 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).

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.



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 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 is 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.

Financial Report

Financial Report March 2023

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of February 28, 2023	\$ (26,214)
Receipts	22,542
Expenses	(\$41,961)
Ending Balance as of 3/31/2023	<u>(\$45,633)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

Peace Pantry	1104.45
Kewaskum Food Pantry	20.00
Lent	247.00
Ash Wednesday	10.00
Maundy Thursday	5.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>1386.450</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project \$(53,721.25)

Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2023, Consistory Meeting Minutes

Those in attendance: Kathy Charland, Mark Bocher, Clark Pearson, Becky Manthei, Lisa Atwater, Brad Preder, Melinda Sargent, Tim Stoffel, Paul Behring, Kathy Mertz, Chris Rode, Ken Singer and Vance Reif.

Those absent: Melissa Polzin

Meeting brought to order at 6pm by Kathy C.

Special welcome and introduction of Vicar Jakob. Very excited and thankful for his arrival.

Special welcome back to Kathy M. Very happy she is feeling better and able to join us.

Approval of Agenda with the addition of talking about Wed services continuing. Motion made by Clark P with a second from Lisa A. Motion approved.

While reviewing the prior month's minutes, it was noted that Chris R last name is spelt Rode. Motion from Clark P to approve the minutes with the changes and a second from Paul B. Motion carried.

Pastor's report submitted with no questions.

New business:

1. OCWM contributions: discussion around how other churches donate and how much.
2. Guidelines for approving financial requests. Discussed how we go about spending money above and beyond budgeted amounts. Also talked about how the budgeting process works. Kathy C made a motion to approve the ordering of VBS curriculum for \$1900 and a second by Mark B. Motion carried.
3. Camp scholarship: talked about a potential change to the policy. Mark B will be speaking with the initial donors of the scholarship to review.
4. Need a rep from council to serve on the scholarship committee to replace Marnie. Tim S agreed to be the representative.
5. Discussed who would be interested in being the next Church President. Please reach out to Kathy if interested so that time can be spent reviewing what is happening now.

Old Business:

1. Discussed possible Wed evening services on a seasonal basis. Asked people to ask others what they think about a different service option. Looking at starting an exploratory committee to gather ideas.
2. Looking at having a special thank you potluck on May 7 or 21st for the kitchen committee and those who updated the sanctuary with a new video and sound system.
3. Discussed the Constitution changes. Request for Bill to send us the final draft and we will then vote in April. Decision made to have a special congregational meeting for the Constitution changes. Upon Council approving a date will be set.
4. Thank you for the email votes approving scholarships of \$8200. Each student is getting \$800, and 2 students qualified for additional amounts due to volunteer work at church.

Financial report – Discussed having some fund raising around the kitchen loan. Currently have \$53,500 due. Motion made by Clark P to approve the financial report and submitting for audit with a second by Tim S. Motion carried.

There will be an Easter breakfast.

Brad P confirmed with the Statesman that it is free to get on the newspaper calendar. We would like to add community meals, church services, ecumenical services, etc.

Pillar updates:

- Faith formation/worship – Vicar Jakob will be preaching on
 - Mission – July 9th-14 – Inter-generational Habitat trip to Redwing, MN.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Peace United Church of Christ

343 First Street, Kewaskum

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Scholarship Fundraiser Sunday, May 21st

8:00 am-11:30 am

COST: \$8.00

(Children 5 and under FREE)

**MENU: Pancakes, Breakfast Sausages, Fresh Fruit &
Applesauce, Bakery, Coffee, Juice, and Milk**

Proceeds to fund college scholarships for Peace UCC youth

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		LECTIONARY 10 AM Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm	XYZ CLUB BOOK CLUB 9:30 am Community Meal	Prayer Shawl Group – 1 PM		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation		LECTIONARY 10 AM Church Council 6pm	XYZ CLUB	Grief Group 1 pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation	Tidings Deadline	LECTIONARY 10 AM Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm	XYZ CLUB Banned Book Club – 1:30 pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Scholarship Committee – Pancake Breakfast Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation		LECTIONARY 10 AM	XYZ CLUB	Grief Group 1 pm		
28	29	30	31			
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation		LECTIONARY 10 AM Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm	XYZ Club			