



*Peace United Church of Christ*

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# *The Tidings*

## *November 2021*



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## *From the Pastor's Study • November 2021*

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<sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had been doing, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

- Genesis 2:2-3

It is hard for me to believe that I'm in the midst of my 24<sup>th</sup> year as the pastor at Peace UCC. As such we are busy at church planning for an upcoming Sabbatical. This will be the first time that I have taken this time on schedule, and only the second time that I'll take the time in full. I had initially hoped that we would be fully on the other side of the pandemic by the time that I would be stepping away for several months, but it seems like we might be on that journey for some time yet. Thankfully we have settled into a much more normal pattern than where we were a year ago. For some of you the concept of Sabbatical may be new, and so I'm always aware that there is some work to do in order to help understand what this word means. Functionally it means that the church will be giving me a paid leave from my duties for 4 months (3 months plus some unused time from the last sabbatical).

When I began my ministry at Peace we were encouraged to follow the guidelines offered to us by the Conference Office to institute a sabbatical policy. The congregation took that leap of faith and implemented a sabbatical policy: "Sabbatical of three months, in addition to vacation, during the sixth year of service, and every sixth year following, per conference guidelines."

I offer what I wrote before my first Sabbatical as still appropriate: "Sabbaticals are recommended as an essential part of keeping clergy attuned to their call and service to God. There is an awareness of the extraordinarily high potential for burnout in the ministry. It is ironic that ministry, as a caring vocation, often does such a poor job of teaching ministers to care for themselves. Even something as simple as having the chance to be a part of a worshipping community instead of always leading worship challenges the pastor to keep Sabbath time. A Sabbatical is an extended Sabbath offered for spiritual renewal, rejuvenation, intellectual growth. Its roots are in God's vision of Sabbath time.

We all know the command to keep the Sabbath holy. The gifted theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote a profound book on Sabbath, *poetry of faith*. He offers us an image of Sabbath as a cathedral in time. At its foundation Sabbath is intended to be a different way of being than the other six days of the week. Heschel recalls how the ancient rabbis looked at the seventh day of creation and noted that it was not an absence of creation, but something more, something different. For six days God created the heavens and the earth, all of the stuff of the universe. So after six days of creation what did the universe lack? Their answer: *Menuha*, a Hebrew word that is often simply translated as *rest* but its connotations are much more powerful, much more positive than mere rest. On the seventh day God created *tranquility, serenity, peace* and *repose*. On the seventh day God created a cathedral in time into which we are invited to be with God in glory and praise and prayer. The poetry of our creation story has all of creation culminate in this seventh day. The Sabbath is the finale, the perfection of creation. This was a unique idea in the ancient world just as it is today. Only the Jews worked in order to enter into the sanctity of rest with their God. The Egyptian slaves rested only in order to recover to do more work in the following days.

Work to rest or rest to work, that difference is all the difference in the world. How many of us “keep the Sabbath?” How many of us truly set aside that time to enter into relationship with God as the very goal of the other six days of our week?

Sabbath also means *enough*, this is the time when we are opened to encounter the fullness of God's creation. This is not the proclamation that comes in frustration at the end of a hard week, “enough already!” but this is the proclamation of a sufficiency that can only be experienced as the bounty God offered to creation, “ah, it is enough!!”

Isn't it interesting how we have moved back into the old patterns of Egyptian slavery rushing from one thing to the next always trying to just keep up? As I plan for time away, time with God, I must confess that there is a certain dread that overcomes me. I know how to keep doing what I'm doing; I'm not so sure I know how to enter into God's cathedral-in-time to be restored. Of course at the same time, I'm growing to clearly understand the wisdom of Sabbatical, I am feeling the desperate need to recharge and reclaim that fire with which God called me to ministry. I cannot help but think that we all have much to gain from this experience.”

My prayer is that this will become a time for all of us to discern how God is calling each of us to live out our faith. It is a chance to break some well-worn patterns, to hear some new voices, and I pray to let the time be a sacred time of imagination. When I think of that opportunity, this seems like a perfect time to listen together for where God is calling us to go as a congregation.

I have watched many pastors and congregations that have experienced sabbaticals together. Most of what I hear are stories about how the experience proved to be a real blessing for everyone involved, congregation and pastor. It was not undertaken as struggle or burden but as opportunity for all involved. It is to embrace the *manuha* for which God made all of creation.

We will embark on this sabbatical together. That may sound a bit strange as I make plans to be away and you will all be here, but we will do this together. All of us are called to open our eyes to new experiences, new preaching and teaching, new opportunities for people to step up to claim the ministry to which we are each called. I pray that it may be a time when we all are reminded to listen a little more clearly for God's voice in our lives.

Shabbat shalom,

PASTOR ERIC

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# *Worship Schedule for November 2021*

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## **Worship at Peace Church**

### **From the Regathering Committee:**

As a committee, 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.

**For people who are unvaccinated, per CDC guidelines, masks are required over the mouth and nose at all times, and social distancing of 6 feet remains.**

**If you are vaccinated, per CDC guidelines, in order to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, the CDC recommends wearing a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. Currently, Washington County falls into that category.** Masks for children and adults are available at all entrances.

**We will continue streaming all worship services** to our YouTube Channel at “Peace UCC Kewaskum” or you can find a link from our website: [www.peace-ucc.org](http://www.peace-ucc.org) or through our Facebook page. We are also now streaming all funeral services and posting those online.

### **Lectionary November 2021**

**Sunday, November 7– 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Peace Church -**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127 ● 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146 ● Hebrews 9:24-28 ● Mark 12:38-44

**Sunday, November 14 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Peace Church**

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10 ● Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16 ● Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 ● Mark 13:1-8

**Sunday, November 21 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Peace Church**

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) ● Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93 ● Revelation 1:4b-8 ● John 18:33-37

**Thursday, November 25 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Peace Church**

Thanksgiving Day

Joel 2:21-27 and Psalm 126 ● 1 Timothy 2:1-7 ● Matthew 6:25-33

Sunday, November 28 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **Peace Church**

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16 • Psalm 25:1-10 • 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 • Luke 21:25-36

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## *Events and Activities*

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### **Peace Church Coffee Fellowship**

A few changes will be taking place at Coffee Fellowship following our worship services.

Coffee will now be self-serve. We are asking for those that attend fellowship and would like to donate sweets (mini-donuts, cookies, mini muffins, bars cut small, etc...) or cheese & crackers, please either bring your treats to the church during the week or on Sunday before service and drop off in the kitchen or church office.

If you aren't up to baking or shopping but would like to contribute, there will be a donation basket available for monetary donations.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 262-626-4011.

Worship at Peace Church.

### **Middle School Youth Group**



Karla and Josh Spaits have been leading the Middle School Youth Group with lots of fun activities and events! Spread the word, bring a friend, come!

#### **NOVEMBER**

- Saturday November 6 - Trail clean-up, games and dinner after walk. 4-7 pm
- Saturday, November 13 – Raking leaves service project – during the day (TBD)
- Friday, November 19 – movie and games
- November 25 – 27<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving service project – day and time TBD

### **Movies and Munchies**

Hello Everyone! Our November movie is “Little Women” (2019). Hope you will come and join in on the fun and bring a friend! We gather upstairs in the Youth Room with the “big screen” and awesome speaker system! All movies begin at 7:00 p.m. and our upcoming dates are: November 19 – Little Women (2019), December 17 – TBD.

**Adult Faith Formation Group** Please note the change of day. We will be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm. (We changed to accommodate the change in the Chancel Choir schedule).

We will gather with a program by Joan Chittister, OSB for a discussion of “The Ten Commandments: Laws of The Heart” We will explore questions like:

- Are the Ten Commandments antiquated and obsolete?
- Do they have anything useful for us in the 21st century?
- How did they come to be, and what was their original purpose?
- Have the 10 commandments evolved?

In this series, Joan Chittister, OSB, invites us to think deeply about the moral fibers of our society. She presents the idea that the Ten Commandments are an adventure in human growth and that we are not so much convicted by them as we are transformed by them. “What does it mean to us, to the world, to preserve the Ten Commandments as the bedrock of our civilization?” Sr. Joan offers an honest and refreshing approach to the Ten Commandments unlike anything else today. The series contains 12 video sessions, each 15 to 18 minutes which we will pace the lessons according to our appetites. A printed discussion guide will be provided. Please let the church office know of your interest.

**Peace Church Book Club 2021 – 2022**

The Peace Church book club will be discuss "Cilka's Journey" by Heather Morris on Wednesday, November 3, at 9:30 a.m. The group meets in the music room across from the church office on the second floor. For more information, please contact Lynn Rusch, at 262-306-4025 or [lynnrusch@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnrusch@yahoo.com).

Meeting Date	Book	Author
Nov. 3	Cilka's Journey	Heather Morris
Dec. 1	Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know	Malcolm Gladwell
Jan. 5	A Woman in the Window	A.J. Finn
Feb. 2	The Book of Lost Names	Kristin Harmel
Mar. 2	In an Instant	Suzanne Redfearn
Apr. 6	Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents	Isabelle Wilkerson
May 4	Infinite Country	Patricia Engel
Jun 1	The Dearly Beloved	Cara Wall



## Looking Ahead

November 3	Book Club – 9:30 a.m., Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
November 6	Youth Group Activity – trail clean-up, games, dinner (4-7 pm)
November 9	Consistory – 6:30 p.m.
November 11	Grief Group – 1:00 p.m.
November 13	Youth Group Activity - Raking leaves service project (time TBD)
November 14	Mitten, Hat & Scarf Dedication
November 14	Youth Choir sing at 9:30 service
November 17	Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
November 19	Youth Group Activity – Movie and games
November 25	Thanksgiving
November 25 – 27	– Youth Group Service Project – date and time TBD
December 1	Book Club – 9:30 a.m., Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
December 2	Lay Caregiving Meeting – 1:00 p.m.
December 4	Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 9	Grief Group – 1:00 p.m.
December 11	Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 12	Sunday School Christmas Program – 9:30 service
December 14	Consistory – 6:30 p.m.
December 15	Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
December 19	Choir Christmas Concert – 9:30 service
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
December 29	Bible Study-7:00 p.m.
December 31	New Year's Eve

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

Nov 1 Nova Smith  
Nov 5 Emma Klahn  
Nov 6 Alexander Bayer  
Nov 10 Megan Roehrig  
Nov 12 Lia Piittmann  
Nov 13 Emmett Staffin  
Nov 18 Samantha Staffin  
Nov 19 Cole Lemke, Claire Lemke  
Nov 26 Lorelei Walker, Auden Walker  
Nov 27 Quin Dornacker  
Nov 28 Ashlyn Thull  
Nov 29 Mason Vey

### **Birthdays (80 years plus)**

Nov 5 Donna Ogi (93)  
Nov 6 Paul Reinders (99)  
Nov 18 Gerald Stern (83)  
Nov 21 Marian Herriges (84),  
Lenore Resch (84)  
Nov 27 Joyce Meinberg (86)

### **Anniversaries**

Nov 9 Alec & Karen Taylor (53)  
Nov 13 Michael & Kelly McCurdy (28)  
Nov 16 Brad & Jenny Preder (25)  
Nov 22 Eileen & Harold Ramthun (46)  
Nov 24 Brenda & John Gitter (37)  
Nov 27 Karen & John Grundahl (50), Dean & Colleen Roe (67)

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## ***VOLUNTEER CORNER***

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**Peace Pantry** – by now, many of you may have noticed the food pantry located in Peace Church's parking lot. What you may not know is how much it is utilized by the surrounding community! The pantry gets stocked weekly, and donations are made to the pantry not only by our church members but by members of the community as well. It has proven to be a very welcomed addition to the Kewaskum area. We will always accept non-perishable items for the pantry or cash donations to purchase items. The most popular items are toilet paper, pasta and spaghetti sauce, fruit cups, chicken noodle soup, saltine crackers, fruit snacks, goldfish crackers, peanut butter and jelly, Cheerios, Rice Krispies, pop-tarts, feminine hygiene items, jarred baby food. We are grateful for the support of Peace Church and the community!





## **Mittens, Hats, Scarves**

Women at Peace Church knit and crochet hats, mittens, and scarves during the year. In November, all completed items are brought to church, dedicated with the prayers of the congregation (November 14), and delivered to organizations for distribution to children in need. **If you knit or crochet, please consider helping with this wonderful mission! We are also in need of yarn, if you have any that you are willing to donate, please call the church office or drop off at the church.** Call Nancy Panzer (626-2817) for more information.

**Volunteer!** Volunteers are a vital part of Peace Church to keep things running smoothly. Church volunteerism is the lifeblood of any church. People often think that volunteering in church is a huge time commitment. That is not necessarily true. Your service does not have to be ongoing. You can serve on a rotating basis and still make an impact. If you want to see Peace Church grow and prosper, we encourage you to volunteer and give your time.

## **Here are some of the volunteer opportunities at Peace Church:**

- Ushering
- Coffee Fellowship Snacks
- Church Decorating
- Serving on the Consistory
- Greeter
- Litanist
- Singing in the Choirs
- Teaching Sunday School

Please contact the church office at [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org) or 262-626-4011 to volunteer or to find out more information on an area that interests you. To all volunteers, thank you for the ways you serve Christ and our church.

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## ***NEWS AND NOTES***

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### **Differences Between Endowment and Memorial Gifts**

Although both endowment gifts and memorial gifts support the ministry of Peace UCC, there are some differences.

The Endowment Fund consists of monies in which the principal cannot be spent. The Endowment is pooled with all the cash assets of the church and invested per the church Investment Policy. The earnings from the Endowment Fund are a resource to help ensure continued growth of the vision and ministries of Peace United Church of Christ.

The Endowment Fund encourages undesignated gifts and bequests. Designated gifts will be placed in the Memorial Fund.

A memorial gift to Peace Church offers an opportunity to make a lasting tribute in honor or memory of someone we love, and to carry on the memory of those whose lives have touched us in significant ways. Special Gifts honor a time, event or milestone in a person's, a family's, or the church's life. Gifts may be designated to a particular ministry, project or fund of the church, or left undesignated, to be used where most needed, with approval of the Consistory.

In summary, funds gifted to the Endowment Fund stay with the fund permanently and the earnings are used to support the ministry of Peace Church, whereas funds for memorial gifts are used to acquire the items designated as the memorial gift. Both are good ways to support the ministry of Peace Church and honor the memory of loved ones.

To make a gift to either fund or learn more about them, please call the church office at 262-626-4011 and a representative of the Endowment Committee or Memorial Committee will contact you.

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## *Financial Reports*

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### **Financial Report September 2021**

#### **General Fund**

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of August 31, 2021	\$ (25273)
Receipts	16397
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	(53)
Expenses	(\$28421)
Ending Balance as of 8/31/2021	<u>(37297)</u>

#### **Benevolence Receipts**

Neighbors in Need	49.75
Peace Food Pantry	15.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	40.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>104.75</u>

#### **Additional Information:**

Project Balances as of 9/30/2021	
Church Kitchen Remodeling Project	13,527.00

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# *Consistory Minutes*

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## **Peace United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting Minutes September 14, 2021**

Members present: Paul Behring, Kathy Charland, Lisa Atwater, Karen Kletti, Tom Kolb, John A. Lemke, John C. Lemke, Becky Manthei, Roger Mertz, Clark Pearson  
Also present: Pastor Eric, Cathy Stern (Treasurer)

- A. Call to order: 6:33 pm
- B. Opening prayer
- C. Approval of agenda: amendments: 1. Tabled motion to transfer CDs. 2. Add to Old Business: Pignic recap; 3. Add to New Business: Cemetery dead tree removal bid. Approve: Kletti/JLsr carried
- D. Approve minutes from 7/13/2021 (August 2021 meeting was canceled) Motion to approve as corrected. J. Lemke/Wilson carried
- E. Financial report: General fund contributions were down in July, but close to normal in August. Motion to accept the financial report and put on file for audit by Charland/Pearson
- F. Pastor's report: Highlights from the written report:
  1. We need volunteers to fulfill the duties temporarily of Faith Formation Coordinator due to Gayle Van Ess' retirement. Volunteers are appreciated to visit homebound members while Pastor Bob is on leave as he continues cancer treatments.
  2. Pastor Eric and Laura are planning to take a sabbatical after the first Sunday in February 2022, through the beginning of June 2022. Since he has not used all the time allotted in the past, he is due four and a half months.
  3. Worship and Faith Formation updates: Sunday morning service attendance continues to grow; Sunday School and choir have resumed this month; the following groups have been meeting weekly: Tuesday Morning Lectionary, Confirmation Class, Middle School Youth
- G. Pres. report: Any member who has concerns about CDC mandates and recommendations should voice them to the President or a consistory member rather than an employee of the church. The President indicates that harassment and/or bullying of church employees will not be tolerated.
- H. Old business:
  1. Faith Formation/Care & Connection – motion to post position on a temporary basis by Becky Manthei, second Martha Wilson and carried. A job description has been revised for a full-time associate pastor to serve in a combined Faith Formation/Care & Connection, Youth Ministry, and Visitation positions. After a discussion on how to best achieve those goals, the consensus was that the congregation should decide. Therefore a motion to proceed to create an associate pastor position will be presented for a vote at the annual meeting was made by Clark Pearson and seconded by John Lemke and carried.
  2. Changes to the Constitution remains tabled.
  3. Office remodeling – new carpet and new countertops are being installed.
  4. KEYS request – sponsorship for the 2021 annual KEYS scholarship run with a donation of \$300 was approved via an email vote earlier this month.
  5. Kitchen renovation design estimate – Authorization for the Kitchen Remodel Committee to have design drawings purchased in the amount of \$5,000 was approved by an email vote earlier in the month.
  6. Tabled motion to transfer CDs – approval was given to transfer all CDs as they mature to the UCC Foundation Fund.
  7. Pignic recap – Becky Manthei reported the Pignic raised \$3000 toward a special project for the church to be determined later. Thank you to all who volunteered to keep this tradition of fellowship.
- I. New business:
  1. Annual meeting date: October 24, 2021

2. Pastor Sabbatical – after a discussion about pastoral guidance during the upcoming four and one-half month sabbatical for Pastor Eric, an agreement was reached to attempt to find an interim pastor if one is available and willing to serve. If someone cannot be found, the alternative plan is to use pulpit supply pastors for Sunday worship.
3. Memorial Fund – A very generous gift from the Robert Neumann estate has been donated to the Memorial Fund. A conversation about Memorial Fund gift distribution and recognition of donors followed. All memorial gifts are to be used as designated by the donor. Any undesignated Memorial Fund gifts shall be used according to the needs of the congregation.
4. Dead tree removal in the cemetery – approval was given for Paradise Gardens bid of \$2,000 to remove five dead trees and the stumps in the cemetery. Additionally, one dead tree and stump on church property will be removed for \$400.
5. Nominations at Annual Meeting – the following officers will be elected at the October 24 Annual Meeting: One(1) Elder, Two (2) Deacons, Two (2) Trustees. In addition, a new President will need to be elected.

J. Lord's prayer

K. Adjournment: 9:06 pm

L. Next meeting: October 12, 6:30 pm