



Peace United Church of Christ

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The Tidings



November 2022

From the Pastor's Study

This last weekend the leaves were reaching spectacular colors, the days were shortening, and we were being assured that fall is finally upon us. I looked at a particularly beautiful tree, and the artist in me delighted at the incredible variety of colors and the depths of textures that one tree can contain. It reminded me of a lesson about leaves from my college days: an art professor held up a leaf and invited us to talk about its symmetry. Leaves are perfectly balanced from one side to the other but are never perfectly symmetrical. The lesson then moved on to people, the two sides of our face, our bodies, our hands, or feet, are typically balanced but never identical. That tree and the lesson it recalled reminded me that the gift and beauty of diversity and balance are important lessons for us to learn from creation itself.

Last Monday was celebrated as Indigenous Peoples' Day and/or Columbus Day. We live in a world that seems to see only the possibility of one story negating the other instead of helping to balance the other. Extremism has made much of beauty and insight that comes of difference and balance indiscernible. As a child I was fascinated by the story of Christopher Columbus and his spirit of adventure and commitment to challenging unpopular theories of his day to prove the world was round. It was only years later that I would learn that lots of people in Columbus' day already thought that the world was round, and even had a sense of its scale. His motivation was power and wealth as he sought a more efficient route for the spice trade which ended up with him lost in *Central America*. It was still later that I would learn of the horrors of how he treated the *Indigenous* peoples of the island "Hispaniola" (what would become Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and the peoples of the newly conquered Americas. I cannot forget the image from murals in the Haitian National *Museum* of people holding the stumps of their arms after having had *their* hands chopped off at the command of Columbus for having not embraced Jesus Christ. It was unclear if they'd even understood what they were being asked. Some have tried to excuse the atrocities against *Indigenous* peoples as the product of thinking from a different age when *Indigenous* peoples (and later Africans) were not even seen as being human. *This idea was further supported by the Doctrine of Discovery which was embraced by much of the church.* Sadly, there are lots of texts from the age of discovery and conquest which make it quite clear that *there were also* many within the church and the science of the day *who* did not hold to the convenient truth that some people were human and others lesser animals. We keep learning only if we're willing to see and grow. Recently someone shared a quote from social media that is attributed to Cherokee *Elder* Stan Rushworth. *"The difference between a Western settler mindset of, I have rights and an Indigenous mindset of I have an obligation... Instead of thinking that I am born with rights, I choose to think that I was born with obligations to serve past, present, and future generations, and the planet herself."* The quote points to a different way of living than that held by the age of discovery and conquest. It actually points to the very lessons that many within the church would have been trying to teach Columbus as well- *that* we are inheritors of the blessings of God and all of creation, and we are called to

be stewards of all. These are lessons that our thanksgiving story imagines weaving into one another. The idea that exploration and curiosity, that seeking a better future for oneself and one's family might intersect with learning to care for past, present, and future generations, as well as the planet, is something worth considering. Two sides of a leaf, two sides of our faces, or our hearts... And both sides of any story only become richer and stronger when we are also able to critique the things that are not blessings, that were not faithful.

We are entering a season of Thanksgiving as well as the perpetual season of political campaigning – not to mention the steady encouragement to unbridled consumerism. How do we learn to stop, to celebrate the diversity, the depth of color and texture, the wonder of balance with which God has crafted the universe... How do we learn to open our hearts to see beyond our certainties to knowledge which may give us the opportunity for growth?

Our journey of faith is always one of learning and growing, looking for new opportunities and age-old wisdom and how one might help to support the other. Perhaps we do well to respond more often with curiosity than certainty, with awe rather than ambivalence, and above all to keep trying to grow in our capacity to love like Jesus in all matters.

Shalom,

PASTOR ERIC

Worship Schedule for November 2022

Sunday, November 6 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 and Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 ● Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9
● 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 ● Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, November 13 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12 ● Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98 ● 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
● Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, November 20 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 ● Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46 ● Colossians 1:11-20
● Luke 23:33-43

Sunday, November 27 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 ● Psalm 122 ● Romans 13:11-14 ● Matthew 24:36-44

Events and Activities

Job Opening at Peace Church - Peace Church is seeking to hire a person for part time weekly custodial and general cleaning duties immediately. This position will begin at up to 8 hours per week (interim period from now through approximately March 30, 2023) assisting the current church part-time custodian. Following this interim period, if the candidate selected for this position has a positive performance review with the Peace Church Personnel Committee, the position could grow to approx. 16-20 hours per week as this person would take over all the church custodial duties upon the springtime (approx.) retirement of the current custodian.

During this interim period of up to 8 hours per week, the specific duties of this new position will include all cleaning of the two church restrooms, kitchen (general cleaning only – specific kitchen cleaning will occur after each use by the responsible church members who are using the facility), Fellowship Hall and small vestibule area and steps between the women’s restroom, kitchen, and Fellowship Hall.

This position requires a person who is self-motivated, can work on their own, maintain a work schedule and be flexible to various church needs. This person will also need to work in harmony with the existing part-time church custodian who will be maintaining the remainder of the church building outside of this position’s responsibilities. This position at a minimum requires the part-time custodian to bend, reach, kneel, scrub (rest room floors, partitions, sinks/countertops – minimum of twice monthly), vacuum, mop, sweep, wipe down walls, cabinets, tables, etc. and to move tables & chairs (in Fellowship Hall) as needed to support cleaning duties. This position will require that the part time custodian use existing church cleaning agent that are being used by the current custodian.

The hours worked would be split between two cleaning days of Mondays and either Thursday or Friday. This would ensure that the areas of this position’s responsibility get cleaned on Monday after the Sunday church services and again later in the week in preparation for the following Sunday services.

Additional hours may be required in the event of special church events (funeral, wedding, church dinner, etc.).

The employee will need to communicate with the Church Office Manager / Pastor / Personnel Committee regarding specific needs, concerns, issues, etc. as needed.

Part Time Custodian Hourly wage:

Remainder of 2022 - **\$13.97**

Beginning Jan 1, 2023 - **\$14.67**

Please submit application to the church office in person or by emailing office@peace-ucc.org

Happy 100th Birthday to Paul Reinders! In honor of Paul Reinders' 100th Birthday on November 6th, we are encouraging members of our congregation to send Paul a birthday card! This will be a surprise to Paul. His address is 2455 Country Creek Circle #4, West Bend, WI 53095.

Peace UCC Grief Group - Led by Chris Rode, this group meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room. For more information, please contact the Peace Church office.

Grief Books Library – Peace Church has added a section of Grief Books to the library located on second floor by the offices. Please feel free to browse and borrow!

Band Together for Banned Books – Peace Church will be starting a monthly “Banned Book Club” in January of 2023. Once a month we will meet to discuss classic and contemporary titles that have been banned by various school districts around the country. Titles such as “To Kill a Mockingbird”, “The Outsiders”, “The Hate U Give”, “Maus”, and many more. Dates and time TBD. If you have an interest in joining, please contact either Chris Rode at rustypeaches1966@gmail.com or the church office at office@peace-ucc.org. Watch the upcoming Tidings and bulletins for more information.

Young Adult Habitat trip - is scheduled for January 1, 2023, to January 9, 2023. Any young adult is welcome to come along. They don't have to be a member of our church. Pastor Eric and Sheri Rehn will be the chaperones. They will be going to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The cost is \$200.00 per person for the week, and this includes staying at the Volunteer Lodge, breakfast, lunch and dinners. Meals and lodging on the way there and back are not included in the cost. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please let Robin in the church office at 262-262-4011. If you have any questions, please call Karen Kletti at 262-224-2212.

Book Club - The Peace Church Book Group will be meeting Wednesday, November 3, at 9:30 a.m. The group will be discussing "The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Change the World" by Melinda Fench. For more information about the November 3 meeting, please contact Lynn Rusch at lynnrusch@yahoo.com or by calling 262-306-4025.

Books for the next 3 months include:

December 7: "The Children's Blizzard" by Melanie Benjamin

January 3: "Westering Women" by Sandra Dallas

February 1: "The Secrets We Kept" by Lara Prescott

Art Sale: Take a look at the tables near both entrances at church to find hand crafted items for sale! Items will change monthly, and proceeds will go towards a designated fund at church. If you are interested in being one of the 'vendors', talk to Karla Spaits, Nancy Stoffel, or Sandi Radeztsky.

Pancake Breakfast – The Kitchen Remodel Committee will hold a Pancake Breakfast to celebrate the grand opening of the newly remodeled kitchen on Sunday, November 13th from 9:00 am – Noon. This will be a free-will offering.

Adult Faith Formation Group Please note the change of day. We will continue meeting on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm. We will finish up the program that we had begun last year with Joan Chittister, OSB and a discussion of “The Ten Commandments: Laws of The Heart” We will continue exploring 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?

We will be picking up with the 8th Commandment. Anyone is welcome to join us to finish this series and then to be a part of what we choose to study next. Please contact Pastor Eric with any questions.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

Nov 1	Nova Smith
Nov 5	Emma Klahn
Nov 6	Alex 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	Ashley Thull
Nov 29	Mason Vey

Birthdays (80 years plus)

Nov 4	Marlene Domasky (88)
Nov 6	Paul Reinders (100)
Nov 18	Gerald Storm (84)
Nov 21	Marian Herriges (81)
Nov 21	Lenore Resch (85)
Nov 27	Joyce Meinberg (87)

Anniversaries

Nov 9	Alec & Karen Taylor (54)
Nov 13	Michael & Kelly McCurdy (29)
Nov 16	Brad & Jennifer Preder (26)
Nov 24	Brenda & John Gitter (38)
Nov 27	Karen & John Grundahl (51), Dean & Colleen Roe (68)

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Sunday School Bean Bag chairs. We collected \$632.00! Your generosity is overwhelming!

Financial Report

Financial Report Sept 2022

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of August 31, 2022	\$ (47,870)
Receipts	22,285
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$26,680)
Ending Balance as of 8/31/2022	<u>(\$52,266)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

Peace Pantry	1,137.00
Neighbors in Need	100.00
UCC Disaster Fund	200.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	20.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>1,457.00</u>
Church Kitchen Remodeling Project	(\$45,483.42)

Peace United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting Minutes Sept 13, 2022

Members Present = X

Members Absent = left blank

X	Kathy Charland (President/Deacon)		John Lemke (Deacon)	X	Ken Singer (Elder)
X	Paul Behring (Trustee)		Lisa Atwater (Deacon)		
X	Melissa Polzin (Deacon)	X	Tom Kolb (Deacon)		Marnie Winninghoff(Deacon)
X	Becky Manthei (Trustee)	X	Karen Kletti (Trustee)	X	Clark Pearson (Trustee)
X	Mark Bocher (Elder)	X	Brad Preder	X	Vance Reif (Trustee)

Kathy C called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Opening prayer offered by Pastor.

Approval of Agenda with updates: Motion made by Clark P with a second coming from Paul B. Motion approved.

Approval of minutes: Motion made by Melissa P, with a second from Karen K. Motion approved.

Financial report provided by Tom K. Request made for the Financial pillar to review the Music and Cemetery restricted funds.

Motion by Mark B and a second from Ken S to place the financial report on file for audit. Motion approved.

Constitution document reviewed and Consistory provided requested updates/changes. Karen K will go back to the committee to update what was reviewed. The committee will send the Consistory an email with timing of when all questions need to be sent to the committee. They will then hold a meeting to review the updates/changes.

Cemetery expenses for lawn cutting, snow plowing, etc, will come out of the cemetery fund going forward. Approximately \$3,500 per year would now be directed toward this fund.

Motion coming out of the personnel committee to post a part time position to cover the custodial hours that are not being consumed by the current budgeted position. Motion approved.

Concerns that funeral costs are not covered by the current fees being charged. Investigating charging a funeral fee that covers custodial, sexton, etc costs. Kathy C will review further with Robin and get back to Consistory.

Digital sign report by Brad P. Costs are around \$25k. Area churches have spent upwards of \$45k. Longevity appears long and maintenance costs seem minimal in talking with other local companies that have these signs. Village ordinance reviewed, and anything we are looking at will meet the requirements. Marketing committee to be re-established. Becky will reach out with the past committee to see if they are willing to regroup.

Motion out of the picnic committee to distribute proceeds from the 2021 (\$3,161.25) and the 2022 (\$2,443.69) picnic accordingly. 50% to the kitchen fund, 25% to the Albrecht Free Clinic, and 25% to One Great Hour of Sharing Disaster Relief. Motion approved.

Usher for early service Oct 2nd: Paul B, Ken S. Need 2 more people. Late: Tom K, Kathy C, Vance R, Becky M.

Karen K. advised that it would cost roughly \$5k to update the electrical panel downstairs. The current panels are extremely old, and are at a point in which is should be reviewed. The costs can be kept down by having internal people doing the labor. If going to the outside, we would be looking at \$8k+.

Vance R reported that it will cost roughly \$5k to update the roof leaks. He has been meeting with several companies to get further ideas on what needs to take place long term. The initial \$5k is to just address the most pressing area. Suggestions made by these companies to do an annual bell inspection. Further review still taking place.

Paul B confirmed that the cemetery driveway has been replaced. Flagpole is up. Trees taken down. Waiting for the arrival of the marble sign. Well pump has been repainted. Cost consumed to date is approximately \$50k. Looking at further landscape around the new blacktop and some areas that are sunken in.

Copier is near end of life. Need to start researching costs.

Interim visitation minister position had been extended thru October. Pastor will be revisiting this in the next month. He is willing to help fill in as needed, and will work with Kathy if there are concerns.

Search and call committee has been meeting weekly for the past 3 weeks and is working on the Church profile.

Pastor's report was emailed ahead of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting will be on October 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.



November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Communion Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30		LECTIONARY 10 AM Men's Choir 6 pm Chancel 6:30 pm	XYZ CLUB BOOK CLUB Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Group – 1 PM		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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 CONSISTORY 6:30 PM Men's Choir 6 pm Chancel 6:30 pm	XYZ CLUB	Grief Group 1 pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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 Men's Choir 6 pm Chancel 6:30 pm Tidings Deadline	XYZ CLUB Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship 8 & 9:30 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5 th grade 6- 8 th Grade Confirmation 9 th Grade Confirmation 4-5		LECTIONARY 10 AM Men's Choir 6 pm Chancel 6:30 pm	XYZ CLUB	Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	Office Closed	
27	28	29	30			
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 Men's Choir 6 pm Chancel 6:30 pm	XYZ Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm			