



*Peace United Church of Christ*

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# The Tidings

## October 2020

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## *From the Pastor's Study • October 2020*

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I was talking with my wise-sage wife recently and she told me that we all need to hear a word that is more hopeful and lighter – enough of all of the news of the world. She reminded me of a post that someone had offered about one of our favorite National Parks, Zion. The observer said something like “you need to be willing to see beauty differently to fully appreciate Zion.” I think that the idea was that if you are looking for lush green landscapes, or startling geysers, or soaring glacier clad mountains, you are going to encounter something radically different. The beauty is in layers of rock, and how myriad colors of red stone interact. The beauty is the power of a little water running through a slot canyon or a moment where you feel like you are observing a moonscape. I have always cherished those moments when we are challenged to see with new eyes. As a college student I remember an art teacher who gave us the challenge to carefully study a one-centimeter square on any object that we chose. We were then to take that tiny little bit of our world, and paint or draw it as an image not smaller than a couple of feet square. Suddenly a flake of oatmeal, or a tiny spot on a rock, or a tiny portion of your hand, became the source of seeing the world through new eyes. Any time that we are forced to change our perspective we have the opportunity to see and learn new things.

I cherish a journey of faith that regularly offers just this kind of reframing of what we think that we see and what we think that we know. Whether that is an observation that cuts through thousands of years' of assumptions about a text, or something as simple as being awakened to how the translation of a word always carries with it the theology of the translator, it can expand our relationship with God and our faith. This last spring, I encountered an article that challenged something as simple as the name change that we all have learned forever as Saul became Paul. The scholar cited the textual evidence to point out that considering the name change as an expression of a change of religious perspective did not fit with the Biblical canon. This scholar looked at long-held assumptions through new eyes, eyes that perhaps because of some “aha” moment allowed them to ask questions about the Biblical story. In this instance the scholar noted that Paul lived in a bi-cultural world, a world that many people still navigate every day. Within Jewish society he used the Jewish name Saul, within Roman society he used his Roman name Paul... The simple observation invites us to see Saul/Paul through a different lens and to further remember that he was someone who had spent his whole life navigating the intersection of conflicting cultures and religions. It is an interesting observation that will have me pay different attention to something as simple as a name.

We live our faith in world that is always changing and that offers both challenges and blessings. We are called by God to engage both. We are encouraged to learn how to see with eyes of faith. This week anyone who has looked at the setting sun has been stunned by the extraordinary beauty of the brilliant orange-red globe hanging in the sky. Its beauty should take our breath away, but the reminder that this vision has been caused by all of the smoke that is travelling from the massive fires in the west should humble us to remember how our world and our lives are always interconnected with others. Both of those observations are calls to faith. God constantly demands that we cherish life, that we celebrate blessings, and that we be servants of love seeking justice and wholeness for all people.

We are living in unusual times. Much of what we have been accustomed to in our world has been altered in large and small ways in the last months. Certainly, for us not being gathered in our church building has been a bold expression of a changed reality. Each of those changes is also an opportunity to refocus our ways of seeing, to take a deep breath and center our souls, and then to consider what wonder God might be offering in this moment.

May we all take the time to be touched by the blessings before us. May we all be bold in sharing the glimpses of grace with one another and the world.

*Pastor ERIC*

## Beginning to Regather inside Peace United Church of Christ

**We will begin regathering for worship in our church building on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Service times have changed to: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

**Reservations will be required: please watch for more information in future bulletins & on Peace UCC website - <https://www.peace-ucc.org/>**

It has been wonderful having a chance to see familiar faces (or at least eyeballs) of many who have been joining us for worship in the park over the last months. We are all hungry, even longing, for the ability to be regathered with our church family. The Regathering Committee has been meeting and talking about how to make this possible as the seasons change. We are excited about trying to regather as a church family, and we are excited about the opportunity that it may offer for all of us to share our care for one another in ways that we never could have imagined (and ways that may not feel like the warm-fuzzy care with which we are accustomed). The love that we share with one another is going to make lots of our interactions at church look very different at this time. We are going to need to practice a deep covenantal faith, where we understand that God has always asked us to put our neighbor's need as equal to ours, and God has consistently required that we take special care for those who are most vulnerable. We are called to shepherd God's sheep and offer them good pasture and care... even if they are resistant. My prayer is that each of the changes that we encounter, we can see as an invitation to love. Many of the area churches reopened some time ago, each of us has been required or encouraged to follow the guidance of our own denominations and our wider church partners (The Council of Churches). The guiding principle for the UCC has been discerning how to faithfully follow Jesus' commands to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus teaches that these two commands are equal, those relationships equal. And in this moment the love of our neighbor has also meant trying to care for our neighbor's physical health alongside of their emotional and spiritual health. As time stretches on, we keep seeking to discern how to balance these competing interests. I encourage us to embrace each requirement as a chance to love our neighbor as much as we love our God and ourselves. We may chaff a little at some of this guidance, but we have never been told that faithful love is easy. The journey before us has always invited us into growth and deeper relationships, let us have our regathering nurture the same.

We ask that everyone wishing to regather in person covenant together to follow these requirements:

- Masks covering the mouth and nose are required.
  - Masks can be shifted momentarily to receive communion.
  - Masks are to be worn the entire time that you are inside the church building.
  - Masks are not required for children under two years of age.
  - If you are unable or unwilling to wear a mask, then out of your love for your neighbor, we ask that you continue to worship with us online at this time.
- Social Distancing is required – please sit with those within your “bubble” but maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others who are not a part of your “bubble” at all times.
  - We will not exceed the capacity guidelines recommended by the Washington County Health Department (at this time this will limit our capacity to no more than 50 people).
- There will be no congregational or choral singing for the foreseeable future.
  - We will explore other ways to engage in the tradition of hymnody: reading hymns as poetry, humming along to a stanza of a hymn, having the worship team present hymns in person or via recordings... we are still working on the details.
- We will provide single use church bulletins, please take them with you or dispose of them after service. All the books have been removed from the sanctuary pews.

- There will be no physical sign of peace or greeting lines at this time.
- There will be no fellowship time – and you are asked not to linger to converse within the confines of the building. Please do not cluster around the entrances outside.
- We will be live-streaming our worship services to YouTube and Facebook – Barring the unforeseen, they will be posted at 8:00 on Sunday morning and then available thereafter.
- Sunday school will be held virtually until you hear otherwise. The Faith Formation team has prepared materials to facilitate our youths' participation in virtual Sunday School. Please see the update in this Tidings or contact the church office if you need more info.
- Small groups will be regathering at church for meetings and classes following the same guidelines outlined above.
- We ask that you sanitize your hands upon entering and exiting the building.
- If you have been physically present in the building and test positive for Covid19, you promise to let the church office know so that we can anonymously (unless you tell us otherwise) inform everyone who was present with us that they have had a potential exposure. This is a part of covenanting together as a faithful community.
- If you have any Covid19 symptoms, you will stay home. (please err on the side of caution even if you think that you may have seasonal allergies or a cold).

Undoubtedly things will continue to evolve as we regather. We will continue doing all that we can to follow Jesus' command to "love our neighbor as ourselves." Keeping everyone as safe as reasonably possible is a part of being a nurturing, loving, and safe environment physically and emotionally – that will only be possible if everyone is willing to do their part.

Please stay tuned and expect that details may continue to change at any time.

## **Worship in the Park**

**Sundays October 4, and 11** worship will be held at River Hill Park in Kewaskum. (1150 Parkview Dr.) There will be two services: 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Social Distancing Guidelines:

- Please conduct a self-check and stay home if you or a household member have symptoms of COVID-19 (Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea).
- If you or a household member are at higher risk for severe illness you are strongly encouraged to stay home.
- Please wear a face covering or mask that covers BOTH your nose and mouth. After you are seated if you aren't speaking or singing you may remove your mask.
- Please maintain a 6 feet distance from people who are not a part of your household – even if you are wearing a face covering or mask.
- We ask that you refrain from singing, or only sing quietly from behind your mask. Singing is a higher-risk activity, as it more forcefully expels respiratory droplets than speaking.
- Please bring your own lawn chairs.
- Please bring your own hand sanitizer.

Changes due to weather or Health Department or Wider Church Guidelines will be posted on Peace Church's website <https://www.peace-ucc.org> or Peace Church's Facebook page.

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## *Worship Schedule for Fall 2020*

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**Worship Services will be held at River Hill Park on the following dates:  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Church building is closed with staff working remotely**

We are recording services and posting them 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 seek to post services by the times listed below:

Sunday, October 4 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **River Hill Park**

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19 ● Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15 ● Philippians 3:4b-14 ● Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **River Hill Park**

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 ● Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23 ● Philippians 4:1-9 ● Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **Peace Church**

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99 ● Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13) ● 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 ● Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, October 25 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **Peace Church – Annual Church Meeting**

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 ● Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1 ● 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 ● Matthew 22:34-46

Sunday, November 1 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **Peace Church**

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17 and Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 ● Micah 3:5-12 and Psalm 43 ● 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 ● Matthew 23:1-12

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

October 1 Adam Rahmer (13)  
October 5 Eliza Anderson (13)  
October 10 Dane Piittmann (10)  
October 5 Chase Clark (5)  
October 8 Hunter Rahmer (2)  
October 12 Piper Fochs (4), Olivia Herbst (4)  
October 14 Karlee Herman (10)  
October 16 Trygve Schemelin (9)

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

Oct. 2 Gary Fisher (81)  
Oct. 2 Markus Frank (92)  
Oct. 2 Howard Zemlicka (87)  
Oct. 7 Bill Wiederanders (86)  
Oct. 9 Char Keller (81)  
Oct. 16 Nancy Brodzeller (81)  
Oct. 25 Betty Skaug (84)

### **Anniversaries**

October 1 Jim & Joyce Meinberg (65)  
October 2 Scott & Terry Buss (21)  
October 6 Brian & Debbie Keller (30)  
October 7 Dale & Jennifer Scannell (20), Joshua & Jennifer Stangl (14)  
October 10 Doug & Judy Christensen (56)  
October 11 Jessica & Kevin Klahn (17)  
October 13 Nicole & David Brei (8)  
October 17 John & Arlene Lemke (56)  
October 20 Tim & Nancy Stoffel (36)  
October 23 Eric & Laura Kirkegaard (27)  
October 24 Amanda & Jon Herbst (11), Gary & Kathy Panzer (40)  
October 26 Olivia & Beau Backhaus (2), Gordon & Cheryl Dickman (41),  
Jori & Steven Schmeling (35)

**A special Happy Birthday Wish to Clark Pearson!** Clark's birthday, on September 4<sup>th</sup>, was inadvertently missed from last month's Tidings. Happy Belated Birthday Clark and thank you for all you do to make Peace Church a better place!

**We celebrate the baptism of** Sophia Rae Schlice, daughter of Jessica & Anthony (TJ), granddaughter of Randy & Michele Schlice and great-granddaughter of Shirley Schlice, on October 4, 2020.

**We hold in our prayers the family and friends of those who have entered eternal life:** Barbara Wenzlaff, who passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Our prayers are with her husband, Robert, her son, Kevin and her entire family.

Norm Hughes, husband of Kathy Hughes, who passed away on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Our prayers are with Kathy and her family.

**We celebrate the marriage of:**

Katrina (Luther) and Matthew Wiedmeyer on September 26 at Elderberry Manor in West Bend. We pray that they may have a lifetime of love and blessings before them.

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## *Events and Activities*

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**Tuesdays at 10 am. - Lectionary group. Each week we will study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact the church office. Each week we will study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday.**

**Adult Faith Formation, Confirmation Redux Resumes:**

First, third, and fifth Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. - We will continue studying the confirmation materials used by our 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands.

Join in person in fellowship hall or connect by zoom:

Eric Kirkegaard is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91928904117?pwd=SFIDNzF0ZmwrNINydCtpQXFPWE9EQT09>

Meeting ID: 919 2890 4117

Passcode: 655329

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,91928904117#,,,,,0#,,655329# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,91928904117#,,,,,0#,,655329# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 919 2890 4117

Passcode: 655329

**Consistory Members** – the following positions are opening on the Peace Church Consistory starting January 1, 2021:

Deacons: 1 position

Trustees: 1 position

If you are interested in one of these 3-year terms, please contact the church office.

## **Faith Formation Is Alive and Well at Peace Church!!!**

Q: How are we offering Sunday School and Confirmation in a time of virtual instruction...?

A: I'm so glad you asked... here's the October update!

Pastor Eric is meeting with 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation students on Wednesday afternoons, while practicing social distancing and safety protocol.

Eric Walker and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation students meet virtually via zoom calls on Sunday evening, using the re:form Ancestors Old Testament curriculum. They recently discussed the Hebrew words "Adamah" and "Chavah" while studying the creation stories in Genesis.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School students meet via zoom with John Lemke after worship on Sunday mornings using the Submerge curriculum. Students are investigating the ancestors of Jesus, as well as their own ancestors, and the impact they have had on the students' lives.

1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School students are "at the beach" with their Dive In videos on the Peace Church YouTube channel and lessons about the Bible supported by family sharing.

Pre-K and Kindergarten students each received their very own Beginner's Bible, and can check out an opening video on the Peace Church YouTube channel before reading and talking about lessons with their families.

The newest Read With Me story, "Jonah, the Moaner" has been posted on the Peace Church YouTube channel. When God asks Jonah to deliver a difficult message to the people of Nineveh, Jonah has a different idea. Our sincere thanks to publisher, Make Believe Ideas, for permission to record and post these stories in rhythmic prose while we offer virtual Sunday School.



As soon as it becomes safe to return to the classrooms, we will offer Sunday School in person! If you'd like to be a part of the exciting path to discipleship, we offer our children and youth, don't hesitate... please call Gayle Van Ess 262-339-0304 or Robin in the church office 262-626-4011 to volunteer! No previous teaching experience is necessary, and all materials are provided!

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## *Financial Reports*

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### Financial Report August 2020

#### **General Fund**

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of July 31, 2020	\$ (52,382)
Receipts	31,780
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$24,404)
Ending Balance as of 8/31/2020	<u>(\$45,006)</u>

#### **Benevolence Receipts**

Kewaskum Food Pantry	190.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>190.00</u>

## Book Reading List for 2020 – 2021

The Peace Church Book Group will be meeting outdoors at the church on Wednesday, October 7, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss Tom Friedman's book "Thanks for Being Late". We will be again meeting on the church property, either in the parking lot or the west side of the church. In case of rain, we will be meeting in Fellowship Hall with masks and social distancing.

The book for November 3rd is "Disappearing Earth" by Julia Phillips.

For more information, contact Lynn Rusch at [lynnrusch@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnrusch@yahoo.com) or by phone (262-306-4025).

<i>Month</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>
Sep 2	Mountains Beyond Mountains	Tracy Kidder
Oct 7	Thanks for Being Late	Tom Friedman
Nov 4	Disappearing Earth	Julia Phillips
Dec 2	The Girl From Venice	Martin Cruz Smith
Jan 6	The Lying Game	Ruth Ware
Feb 3	The Underground Railroad	Colson Whitehead
Mar 3	We Were the Lucky Ones	By Georgia Hunter
Apr 7	Educated	Tara Westover
May 5	Ask Again, Yes	Mary Beth Keane
Jun 2	Finding Chika	Mitch Albom

# **Youth Ministry Intern Position**

## **PURPOSE**

For the intern, this is an opportunity to gain practical ministry experience, to work in an atmosphere of personal and professional guidance and support, to test their gifts and call to vocational ministry, and to develop spiritually and theologically. For the church, the intern brings practical help and energy to the youth ministry, provides additional relational ministry to the youth of our congregation and provides a role model to the youth of this church.

## **ACCOUNTABLE TO**

The youth intern will be accountable to the Pastor, Personnel Committee, Faith Formation Coordinator, and the Christian Education Committee (CE).

## **INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION**

- The overall objective is to present and show by example the gospel of Jesus Christ to young people and to encourage them in their growth through the study of scripture, prayer, service, and fellowship.

Specific activities may include:

- Plan and carry out activities with youth, including opportunities for urban outreach and ministry.
- Develop relationships with youth, parents and volunteer staff through individual and group contact, mail, e-mail, phone, social media and in the community.
- Meet regularly with both the Ministry and CE teams for planning, communication and evaluation.
- Assist the CE committee in planning and executing ministry programs. These may include Bible studies, youth groups, special events, retreats, urban projects and travel ministries.
- Lead youth meetings.
- Maintain personal, spiritual and professional growth.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Growing commitment to the Christian faith, the body of Christ, and God's work in the world.
- Ability to work effectively with youth, exhibiting creativity, understanding and patience.
- Ability to verbally articulate personal faith and a Christian world view.

## **TIME and TRAVEL COMMITMENT**

The internship will require approximately 10 hours per week, which will be on a flexible schedule.

## **STIPEND**

\$12-\$15 an hour

If you know of someone who would be interested in this position, please pass it on to them and have them contact the church office at [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org).

## Neighbors In Need

*"I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me - you did it to me."  
Matthew 25:40 (The Message)*

The Neighbors in Need special mission offering supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Neighbors in Need helps fund ministries that address poverty, economic development, human rights, peacemaking, violence, racial and economic justice, environmental concerns, and public advocacy. The theme for this year's Neighbors in Need offering is "All children have the right to simply be children."

With our generous gifts to Neighbors in Need, the United Church of Christ is offering hope to millions of people; we are transforming lives, the nation, and our world. In 2020, more than ever, contributions to the Neighbors in Need offering are needed. Our country is experiencing unprecedented needs in this time of the Covid-19 crisis. **Our congregation will be receiving and dedicating this special mission offering on Sunday, October 4, 2020.**

Two-thirds of the offering given to Neighbors in Need is used by the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news update, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, environmental justice, and poverty.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), which is the voice for American Indian people in the United Church of Christ. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In addition to supporting these local churches and their pastors, CAIM strives to be a valuable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the United States.

**God calls us to imagine and boldly believe that another world is possible, A Just World for All . . . a world without hunger - a world without poverty - a world without discrimination - a world without oppression - a world without violence.**

**Through our gifts to Neighbors in Need on October 4<sup>th</sup>, we have the opportunity to make a difference and help make A Just World For All possible. Let us give generously to the work of bringing hope and wholeness to all of our neighbors.**

# Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) How to Protect Yourself & Others

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – July 31, 2020

## **Know how it spreads**

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
  - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
  - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

## **Everyone Should**

### Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
  - Before eating or preparing food
  - Before touching your face
  - After using the restroom
  - After leaving a public place
  - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
  - After handling your mask
  - After changing a diaper
  - After caring for someone sick
  - After touching animals or pets
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

### Avoid close contact

- **Inside your home:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- **Outside your home:** Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
  - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
  - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

- Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

### Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- **The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.**
- **Everyone should wear a mask in public settings** and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
  - Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Do NOT use a mask meant for a healthcare worker. Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

### Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

### Clean and disinfect

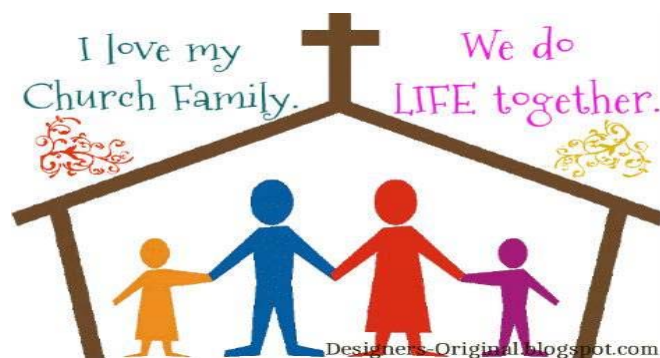
- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them.** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- **Then, use a household disinfectant.**

### Monitor Your Health Daily

- **Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Especially important if you are running essential errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.
  - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

You are invited  
to  
**Peace Church**  
**Annual Meeting**

Come learn what is new.  
It is your church, help us shape it.



Letter  
Minutes  
Agenda  
Budget

Please read and bring with you  
October 25, 2020

## Vision

**Peace Church exists to feed souls, grow in God's extravagant love and together serve all of God's children, creation, and our neighbors.**

## Mission

**Love like Jesus...**

**Welcome all, love all, grow in faith together, and seek justice for all.**

***"Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."* – John 13:34**

Peace Church Friends and Congregation,

It has been a remarkably busy and tumultuous year for growing. Yes, I said growing. I believe that Covid-19 has brought on many challenges to how we all live. I would like to bring to your attention some of the positives that we may not have noticed. First, the virtual capabilities of our church have grown by leaps and bounds. The new sound equipment is currently in the process of being installed as I write this letter. In combination with that, our video capturing capabilities are also in the process of being installed. What does this mean? Our church services will now be shared to more members than before. Many of you have already been able to stay at home and watch either a recorded or now live streaming service. Shut-ins, people traveling south for the winter, or some of our young people that may have to work weekends can still see our church services. In the past, if something kept you from church service you would miss it.

Many of our groups that gather in-person are now using Zoom to meet. The consistory has adopted a practice of using both live and Zoom for their meetings. This takes some of the pressure off our consistory members who may have struggled to attend in-person, as they can now simply log-in live from home. Covid-19 may have kept us apart physically, but I think in some ways we have closed the distance between us with the innovative technology.

Part of the growing has also been the people at Peace Church who have adapted and stepped up to the challenges we have all faced. I would be remiss if I did not say a BIG THANK YOU to all of them. Pastor Eric and the worship team have been incredible with keeping services on-going. The music team (Karla, Sherry, Elsa, Berit, Maëlle, Bill, Lauren, and Elena) that was able to perform not only in an empty church but outside in the park, truly showed what members of our church are capable of. The consistory unanimously voted to make sure that our church staff was taken care of during the crisis. The Christian Education team switched from in-person to virtual within a few weeks and delivered Sunday school materials to our church families. Robin is making sure that all the office responsibilities are managed with the new normal. Pastor Bob, Gayle, Pastor Eric's family (Laura, Elsa, Berit, and their French exchange daughter, Maëlle Leopardo), Dan and Roger (the church custodian and sexton) Sandi Radeztsky and Diane Stangl, for their organizing and mailing out greeting cards to some of our church members, and Bob Schrader, who visited church members homes to record video message that have been included in Sunday worship services, are only some of the people that have stepped up.

Some of the other new items for this last year are the mission statement, the ongoing search for a youth leader, a group of engaged members that have participated in the Damascus project around stewardship. The kitchen remodel has been slow going with the challenges around the Covid-19 situation. This committee will begin to move forward again now that we are starting to meet in person again.

Our people are what makes our church what it is, but finances are what keeps the building open. Even though the church was not holding in church services our mission continued. The general fund has continued to show a negative budget balance. This year the church applied for a Payroll Protection Loan that we received to help offset some of those costs related to payroll during the Covid-19 crisis. This amount will only offset about one half of the general fund's negative budget balance. Two areas to help improve the stewardship of our church around funding the general fund are to increase the amount of



engagement from some of our members who may not be engaged and second continue the support of our church by our members who are engaged.

The pre-Covid-19 general fund deficit was \$24,000. This may seem like an insurmountable mountain to climb, but every journey starts with one step: We currently have 310 giving contributors to our church over the last 12 months. If each one of those contributors were to give just \$77.42 more per year, we would overcome our deficit. We know that for some that would be a hardship, and for some they might be able to do more. But we know that every little expression of our faith when shared makes the mountain much easier to climb. I want to thank all the contributors for their stewardship to help support our church and its missions so far. What can we do around our stewardship for the church moving forward? Is it volunteering to fill a consistory position, financial giving, serving on a committee, helping run the new audio/visual equipment, teaching Sunday school, or some other new way of serving?

As always, I am open to hearing your thoughts. It has been and will continue to be an honor to serve the congregation of Peace United Church Christ.

Regards

*John A. Lemke*

Peace United Church of Christ  
2019 Annual Meeting Agenda  
October 25, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order – John A. Lemke

Gathering Prayer – Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

October 20, 2019 – Annual Congregational Meeting

Pastor's Report – Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

President's Update – John A. Lemke

- -Presidents Letter
- -Mission Statement
- -General Fund

Election of Consistory and Committee Members

Consistory: Elder (3 years) - Ken Singer - renewing

Consistory: Deacon (3 years) - vacant

Consistory: Deacon (3 years) - Kathy Charland-renewing

Consistory: Trustee (3 years) - Paul Behring-renewing

Consistory: Trustee (3 years) – vacant

Christian Education Board: (3 years) - vacant

Christian Education Board: (3 years) - vacant

Christian Education Board (2 years) - vacant

Pastoral Relations Committee: (3 years) – vacant

Pastoral Relations Committee: (3 years) – vacant

Scholarship Committee: (3 years) – vacant

Scholarship Committee: (3 years) – vacant

Endowment Committee: (3 years) - vacant

Endowment Committee: (3 years) – vacant

Investment Committee: (3 years)– vacant

Investment Committee: (3 years) – vacant

Election of Consistory President

Stewardship Presentation- Deacons

Presentation of 2021 Budget – Discussion

Approval of 2021 Budget

New Business

Sending Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Peace United Church of Christ  
2019 Annual Meeting Agenda  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Call to Order- John A Lemke Jr called the meeting to order at 10:45am

Gathering Prayer- Prayer offered by Rev Eric Kirkegaard

Approval of Agenda- Motion made by Judy Christensen to approve agenda, second by John Wood and motion carried.

Approval of Minutes- October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018- A motion to accept the 2018 Annual Congregational meeting was made by John Wood, second by Bill Stangl and carried.

Pastor's Report- Rev Eric began by reminding us this is his 21<sup>st</sup> year as Pastor at Peace UCC. The past year saw three major mission trips that included Habitat and the Canada Canoe trip. The VBS program was a huge success with a large number of students participating this year. Rev Eric acknowledged the expanse of ministries offered at Peace UCC from Gayle VanEss and her energetic work and inspiration to Christian Education, Pastor Bob and his continued commitment to the visitation ministry program, Diane Swanson and her faithful service that was offered to our church for the past 27 years and the celebration of Robin Mock coming on board to take on a new role for our Church as Office Manager. As Robin's role takes over, Kathy Danielson will be departing her paid position and Rev Eric offered praises for the extraordinary ministry Kathy has offered the congregation over the years and continues to do so.

Rev Eric discussed the needs of the Church to fill vacant boards, ushering and other offering of ways to serve the Church family.

Rev Eric offered appreciation for the following members of consistory who will be ending their services at the end of the year: Cal Rauch, Eric Walker, Shirley Miller and Don Neitzel.

President's Report- John A Lemke discussed the letter he presented as part of the Annual Congregational meeting which discusses the formation of a Vision statement for the Church.

There is continuing work to complete a Mission statement to give direction to where the congregation is moving towards.

Sound System replacement continues to be a priority as many of the material products have been purchased and we continue on working towards the installation.

General fund discussion took place with defining contributions versus expenses and how best to display how we are presenting this to the congregation. The updated Servant Keeper software brings new opportunities to record and track financial and membership trends and to provide a working organization of volunteers and other needs in the Church. Question was raised by John Wood on the movement of monies between the funds. Rev Eric explained the process of balancing funds that Peace UCC has used and will continue to use in their accounting program.

Tom Kolb asked how the general fund relates to its membership. Rev Eric explained that the Church office has been working on verifying actual active membership over the past year and adjusting the records. The membership continues to fluctuate between 500-600 members. The availability of the new software has helped to better track attendance, membership and help explore opportunities for people to be part of the Church that may not attend services.

Stewardship Presentation-Deacons- Eric Walker presented a personal reflection on what it has meant to be a part of the working body of the Church.

Election of Consistory and Committee Members- request was made to define roles of some of the existing positions. Eric Walker and John A Lemke presented information on Deacon's role. Cal Rauch gave heartfelt account of the Trustee's role in the Church and how he has graciously offered his services.

Congregation was asked to present nominations for the following openings and was filled as follows:

Consistory: Elder (3 years) Martha Wilson

Consistory: Deacon (3 years) Tom Kolb

Consistory: Deacon (3 years) Kathy Charland

Consistory: Trustee (3 years) Kathy Thompson

Consistory: Trustee (3 years) Steve Falk

Consistory: Trustee (3 years) Karen Kletti

Christian Education Board: (3 years) Kelli Jo Anderson

Christian Education Board: (3 years) Laura Kirkegaard

Christian Education Board: (2 years) Jessica Manogue

Pastoral Relations Committee: (3 years) Karen Grundl

Pastoral Relations Committee: (3 years) Eric Walker

Scholarship Committee: (3 years) Jason Piittmann

Scholarship Committee: (3 years) Candy Lindgren

Endowment Committee: (3 years) Mark Steinhardt

Endowment Committee: (3 years) Judy Christensen

Investment Committee: (3 years) Roger Mertz

Investment Committee: (3 years) Mugs McFadden

Motion made by Bill Stangl to approve unanimous ballot, second by Greg Ogi and motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Election of Consistory President: Motion made by Jim Meinberg to nominate John A Lemke as Consistory President, second by Nancy Brodzeller. Greg Ogi moved to close the election. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Presentation of 2020 Budget- John A Lemke presented budget as proposed in annual packet. Floor was opened to discussion, no discussion followed. Doug Christensen made a motion to accept budget as presented, second by Judy Price, motion was carried by unanimous vote.

New Business- Vision Statement presented for discussion. Joe Billmann asked about clarification on last few words. Judy Christensen made motion to change and accept vision statement to read "Peace Church exists to feed souls, grow in God's extravagant love and together serve all of God's children and creation." Second made by Cal Rauch as revised, motion was carried with unanimous vote.

Open and Affirming Statement:

We, the members of Peace United Church of Christ, believe that we are called to be a congregation of grace and welcome to all of God's children:

To celebrate every person as a child of God created in God's image

To love all as God has first loved us

To acknowledge the presence of, and offer healing in the wounds of oppression, injustice, prejudice, and hate, and to stand with those who are left out

Following Christ's example, we welcome and include everyone in all aspects of life, leadership, and ministry of the church. We affirm persons of all races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, family structures, physical or mental abilities, political stances, faith backgrounds and socio-economic status.

In the way of Jesus, we stand against acts of hate and violence in all their forms.

Therefore, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Congregation, where an extravagant welcome and grace are extended to all, and each person's gifts are celebrated, welcomed, nurtured and blessed, that all may be one. Amen.

Discussion was opened to address the Open and Affirming Statements and ballots were passed out for a written vote. Five members of the congregation gave their personal testimony to how this statement addressed their lives. Votes were counted with the following results: 81 votes Yes, 2 votes No and 5 votes abstained.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judy Christensen and second by Trisha Walker. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Pastor Eric offered closing prayers with gratitude for participating in this important meeting.

**Peace United Church of Christ**  
 General Fund  
 2021 Budget

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

	<b>2020 Budget</b>	7 months		<b>2021 Budget</b>
		<b>2020 Jan-Jul Budget</b>	<b>2020 Jan-Jul Actual</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Total Christian Ed Income</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 835	\$ -
<b>Total General Fund</b>	\$ 311,627	\$ 185,009	\$ 160,523	\$ 313,145
<b>OCWM (designated on envelopes)</b>	\$ 33,567	\$ 19,582	\$ 5,380	\$ 33,567
<b>Total Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 345,194</b>	<b>\$ 204,591</b>	<b>\$ 166,738</b>	<b>\$ 346,712</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	\$ 226,302	\$ 132,007	\$ 119,543	\$ 228,520
<b>Total Building Expenses</b>	\$ 56,000	\$ 37,880	\$ 30,833	\$ 54,500
<b>Total OCWM Paid</b>	\$ 33,567	\$ 19,582	\$ 19,581	\$ 33,567
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	\$ 6,100	\$ 4,850	\$ 3,558	\$ 6,500
<b>Total Worship</b>	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,210	\$ 2,989	\$ 5,500
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	\$ 9,225	\$ 6,430	\$ 6,585	\$ 9,325
<b>Total Office Equip &amp; Supplies</b>	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,915	\$ 3,963	\$ 6,000
<b>Total Music</b>	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,457	\$ 1,294	\$ 2,800
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 345,194</b>	<b>\$ 209,330</b>	<b>\$ 188,345</b>	<b>\$ 346,712</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (4,739)</b>	<b>\$ (21,607)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**Peace United Church of Christ**

General Fund

2021 Budget

**DETAILED STATEMENT**

	2020 Budget	7 months worth		2021 Budget
		2020 Jan-Jul Budget	2020 Jan-Jul Actual	
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Christian Ed Income</b>				
Come Share The Spirit	0	0	134	0
Confirmation	0	0	0	0
Adult Education	0	0	7	0
Youth Income	0	0	624	0
Sunday School	0	0	0	0
Christian Ed Income - Other	0	0	70	0
<b>Total Christian Ed Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
Endowment Fund Interest	0	0	0	0
Initial Offering	400	400	354	400
Loose Offering	2,500	1,450	475	2,500
Music Income - Other	0	0	20	0
Use of Church	0	0	200	0
Other Income Misc	0	0	395	0
Women At Peace	0	0	0	0
Worship Income - Other	0	0	0	0
Worship Income - Flowers	2,000	1,155	450	2,000
General Fund Envelopes	306,727	182,004	158,677	308,245
Other Income	0	0	(1)	0
Other Income Transfers	0	0	250	0
Income from Investments	0	0	(297)	0
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>311,627</b>	<b>185,009</b>	<b>160,523</b>	<b>313,145</b>
<b>OCWM (designated on envelopes)</b>	<b>33,567</b>	<b>19,582</b>	<b>5,380</b>	<b>33,567</b>
<b>Total Fund Income</b>	<b>345,194</b>	<b>204,591</b>	<b>166,738</b>	<b>346,712</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Staff Expenses</b>				
<b>Pastor</b>				
Salary	50,128	29,241	29,241	50,128
Furnishings Allowance	10,000	5,833	5,833	10,000
<b>Total Cash Salary</b>	<b>60,128</b>	<b>35,075</b>	<b>35,074</b>	<b>60,128</b>
<b>Additional Compensation</b>				
Social Security Offset	5,980	3,490	3,488	5,980
Pension	10,943	6,383	5,472	10,943
Life & Disability insurance	1,172	682	550	1,172
† Health Insurance (per Capita)	0	0	0	0
Health Insurance	23,512	13,717	13,779	24,220
Dental Insurance	600	350	399	600
Pastor's Cont. Ed./Books	1,000	585	694	1,000
Travel Allowance	4,500	2,625	637	4,500
† Line no longer being used after 2020, Health numbers figured by Conference				
▲ Visitation Minister	9,100	5,308	4,200	9,100
▲ Visitation Minister Mileage	1,700	990	166	1,800
▲ Current YTD based on Rev. Blackburns service. Budgeted position based on Conf. Guidelines				
<b>Additional Staff Salaries</b>				
▲ Office Manager	37,440	21,840	21,960	37,440
• Church Secretary	0	0	0	0
Church Custodian	10,686	6,234	2,785	10,686
Church Sexton	4,795	2,797	2,570	4,795
Churchmen Accompanist	1,170	683	930	1,170
Organists	15,019	8,761	9,223	15,019
Chancel Choir Director	2,529	1,475	1,475	2,529
Youth Choir Director	1,581	922	922	1,581
Rehearsal Accompanist	1,844	1,076	1,106	1,844
Treasurer	2,966	1,730	1,730	4,275
Child Caregiver	1,300	758	775	1,300
Administrative Assistant	0	0	0	0
Δ Volunteer Coordinator	4,569	2,665	2,665	0
Δ Faith Formation Coordinator	5,253	3,064	3,064	9,822
▲1 Youth Coordinator	6,500			6,500

**Peace United Church of Christ**

General Fund

2021 Budget

**DETAILED STATEMENT**

	2020 Budget	7 months worth		2021 Budget
		2020 Jan-Jul Budget	2020 Jan-Jul Actual	
Other Salaries	0	0	275	0
Social Security	8,014	4,674	4,091	8,114
Workers Compensation	2,000	1,165	1,065	2,000
Other Pulpit Supply	2,000	1,165	447	2,000
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	<b>226,302</b>	<b>132,007</b>	<b>119,543</b>	<b>228,520</b>
▲ New Position				
▲ Position to be combined to Faith Formation Coordinator				
▲ <sup>1</sup> New Position - to be funded 50% from Future Ministry Fund				
<b>Building Expenses</b>				
Snow Plowing	5,500	4,000	4,547	5,500
Janitor Supplies	1,000	585	587	1,500
Insurance Buildings etc	12,700	7,410	5,663	10,700
Heat Maint. Contract	2,000	1,000	0	2,000
Elevator Maintenance	5,500	5,500	5,101	5,500
Electric	9,000	6,400	4,942	9,000
Heat/Gas	9,000	5,250	4,721	9,000
Lawn Care	5,500	4,000	2,000	5,500
Phone	3,700	2,160	2,160	3,700
Water & Sewer	2,100	1,575	1,112	2,100
<b>Total Building Expenses</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>37,880</b>	<b>30,833</b>	<b>54,500</b>
<b>OCWM Paid</b>	<b>33,567</b>	<b>19,582</b>	<b>19,581</b>	<b>33,567</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>				
Confirmation	900	900	1,215	1,200
Adult Education	600	350	0	600
Christian Education - Other	0	0	104	0
Sunday School	2,000	1,500	281	2,000
Vacation Bible School	1,400	1,400	1,854	1,500
Youth Fellowship	1,200	700	104	1,200
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>3,558</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>Worship</b>				
Worship Exp - Other	3,000	1,750	1,687	3,000
Worship Exp - Flowers	2,500	1,460	1,302	2,500
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>5,500</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>		0	250	
S.E. Assoc. Dues	2,525	2,525	2,778	2,525
Communications/Mailings	1,800	1,050	1,010	1,400
Dues/Subscriptions/Website	1,500	875	892	2,000
UCC Meetings	500	290	0	500
Fellowship	1,500	875	187	1,500
Stewardship	300	175	0	300
Care & Connection	800	465	390	800
Operating Expenses	300	175	39	300
Investment Fees	0	0	15	0
GenFund Misc Expenses	0	0	1,024	0
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>9,225</b>	<b>6,430</b>	<b>6,585</b>	<b>9,325</b>
Office Technology	3,000	1,165	1,007	3,000
Office Supplies	2,000	1,750	2,956	3,000
<b>Total Office Equip &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>6,000</b>
* Office Technology account added to closer track expenditures				
<b>Music</b>				
Chancel Choir	500	290	233	500
Teen Choir	0	0	0	0
Youth Choir	200	115	11	100
Copyrights	1,000	1,001	1,049	1,000
Music & Instrument Maint.	1,800	1,050	0	1,200
<b>Total Music</b>	<b>3,501</b>	<b>2,457</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>2,801</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>345,194</b>	<b>209,330</b>	<b>188,345</b>	<b>346,712</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(4,739)</b>	<b>(21,607)</b>	<b>0</b>