



Peace United Church of Christ

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August 2020

The Tidings



From the Pastor's Study • August 2020

"...the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:16–17, NRSV)

I read an article in the last month that challenged us to remember that fundamental to our faith is the idea of repentance. For many who grew up in churches that were rooted too heavily in feelings of guilt or being always unworthy, the idea of repentance carries a heavy, shame-laden connotation. I am always grateful to my Judaism professor who illuminated the idea of repentance as simply turning back toward God. The process is one of constantly re-evaluating our lives so that when we realize that we have been engaged in thoughts or actions that are counter to God's that we turn back to God's ways. It is a constant journey of reorienting our living to more closely resemble the humble and selfless ways that we trust are those valued in God's kingdom.

Jesus begins his ministry with that command to change our lives, and then throughout his ministry he models what that might look like. His ways are rooted in love, but they are also rooted in being open to growth in our understanding of the limits of that love. With the Syrophenician woman even Jesus is forced to acknowledge the limits of his perspective and then to change.

In this moment in time I am much too aware of the ways that our culture has drawn so many artificial lines in the sand: Black and White, health versus economy, what we heard about wearing masks months ago versus what we're hearing today, and it goes on and on. Interestingly, the world often encourages a stance of digging in and trying to hold our ground. While God's ways seem to constantly ask us to be open to the spirit of love, of unfolding revelation, and of a willingness to say I was wrong, or I need to change my way of thinking or acting to align more closely with Jesus' dual commands to love God and to love our neighbor. As we listen to those around us, to the news broadcasts, and the politicians we should be looking through the lens of our faith to see whether people are able to say "I was wrong" or to observe that what we'd assumed yesterday isn't what we understand today. We should be listening as servants of God who are trying to orient our own lives more closely to God's ways, and to be shining God's light and love into our weary world. Repentance is constant, and it should be a joy.

The other day I received a word that I have heard often enough from beloved members of the congregation (and even from my own mother) that Church and politics have no business with one another. This time it revolved around the issue of racism – but I find the topic interchangeable with any other issue that gets in the way of that dual command to love God and neighbor. After writing my response, I thought that I should share a portion of it with you:

"... I'm saddened that you are uncomfortable with the conversations that are continuing to take place at the national level of the UCC. There has been a request for a "sacred conversation on race" that began within the UCC many, many years ago. The UCC has been engaged in these kinds of human rights conversations for most of our history, whether it was advocating for the end of slavery or the ordination of women, women's suffrage or civil rights. Some have always said that this seemed too political – and yet as the church we have always taken Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves seriously. We have also understood that this command pushes us to grow in sometimes uncomfortable ways.

Around issues of race, most of us are unaware of all the many ways that the church has been complicit throughout history in the construction of race, and the encouragement of racism. It is not a

part of our history for which most of the church is particularly proud, but it is real. Whether that was the Quakers and Episcopalians making a fortune from the slave trade, or the Catholic Church offering a Papal Bull that supported the Doctrine of Discovery... or all of the rest of the church choosing to hear only the words of comfort and salvation while avoiding the words that critique the ways of the world and our "kingdoms" so that we might envision God's kingdom.

Fundamental to our faith is a theology of repentance, its roots stretch back to the foundations of Judaism and forward to Islam. For us, as Christians, it sets the stage for Jesus' ministry as we hear the proclamation "repent! For the kingdom of heaven has come near." The command is to turn back to God and away from the failings and brokenness of the world. We are constantly called to assess our roles in living as God calls us. Examining our role in both creating and sustaining the racism that is among us is just one more way that the church and God's people are called to repent. That call has often, maybe even always, made God's people uncomfortable. But that is the call that Jesus has offered us.

Jesus was highly political, and deeply interested both in critiquing the power structures of his day and religion in his day. When we re-read the Gospels with an openness to those dual critiques, they come to life, but they also challenge us in ways that are deeply uncomfortable. When Jesus offers the dual summation of the law as: "love God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself" he is asked about who his neighbor is... and his response is to tell the story of the Good Samaritan – we do well to remember that the Samaritans were those who were despised for cultural and religious reasons – Jesus command was to engage in that love when it is uncomfortable.

*So, yes Peace UCC has been engaged in some of these conversations over the years. We have studied *White Privilege and the Doctrine of Discovery*, we've engaged in various conversations about how we keep learning about the intersection of our faith and the world, and trying to support one another in the repentance to which we are called.*

Our world has made these human rights issues into current hot button political issues... for us in the church, these have been conversations in which we have been engaged for thousands of years, and hundreds of years, and decades... and sadly the work that we all need to do as people of faith just doesn't end."

These are trying times as we hear about rights, we should also consider our responsibilities. When consider any of the challenging issues in our world today we should always do so through Jesus' lens of love and then turn back to God's ways and speak and act accordingly.
May God bless us with the joy of walking ever more closely with our God,

Pastor ERIC

Worship in the Park

Sunday, August 2, 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. The 9:30 a.m. service will celebrate the 2020 Confirmation Class.

(we will attempt to live stream this service, otherwise a recording will be available online later in the day)

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. 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.

Worship Schedule for Summer 2020

**All Worship Services at this time will be VIRTUAL unless otherwise noted.
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 or through our Facebook page. We seek to post services by the times listed below:

Sunday, August 2 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **River Hill Park**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The 2020 Peace Church Confirmation will take place at the 9:30 worship service.

Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15 ● Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 ●
Romans 9:1-5 ● Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9 – Pastor Eric will be on Vacation – Rev. Eric Ogi will be welcoming us
to worship virtually with his church

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b ● 1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm
85:8-13 ● Romans 10:5-15 ● Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16 - Pastor Eric will be on Vacation – Rev. Eric Ogi will be welcoming us
to worship virtually with his church

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133 ● Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67 ● Romans 11:1-2a,
29-32 ● Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Sunday, August 23 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalm 124 ● Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 138 ● Romans 12:1-8 ●
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b ● Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8 ●
Romans 12:9-21 ● Matthew 16:21-28

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

August 7 Brianna Augustin
August 14 Coralee Kivell
August 18 Sarah Jankowski
August 21 Wyatt Herman
August 25 Benjamin Herbst
August 31 Jackson Brei, Nora Brei

Anniversaries

August 3 Vance & Susan Reif (29)
August 4 Ron & Lynn Rusch (58)
August 9 Barry & Bonne Clark (40)
August 10 Darrel & Judy Nonhof (63)
August 11 Brandon & Lori Zolp (2)
August 13 Eric & Tricia Walker (15)
August 15 Mark & Katlin Evans (11), Bruce & Donna Steinhardt (11)
August 16 Mitch & Shirley Ogi (45)
August 18 Brian & Nicole Weinreich (13)
August 19 Steve & Cheri Falk (25), Jeff & Deanna Mielke (20), Tim & Sharon Zolp (31)
August 20 Charlie & Pam Berres (15)
August 21 Jim & Patricia Reigle (73)
August 22 Kedrick & Corrie Strutz (12)
August 26 Mandi & Jeffrey Rahmer (14)
August 30 Dan & Kathy Rundquist (45)
August 31 Scott & Sarah Augustin (18)

Birthdays (80 years plus)

August 9 A. John Scheidenhelm (89)
August 15 Betty Graff (87)
August 21 Dean Roe (86)
August 21 Ruth Whyte (99)
August 23 Bev Winninghoff (81)
August 29 Nancy Laguna (80)
August 31 Della Lehmann (80)
August 31 Rosemarie Maeder (85)
August 31 Jerry O'Connor (85)

We hold in our prayers the family and friends of those who have entered eternal life:

“Connie” (Laverne) Fehrer who rejoined her husband Ken in God's eternal keeping on Monday July 27th, 2020. Connie suffered a stroke and was blessed be able to have her son and daughter with her in her final days.

Charles Ogi died July 30th, 2020 at home with his family gathered around him. To the end “Doc” was giving thanks for all of the love and support of his family, his church family, and his community.

Events and Activities

Tuesdays at 10 am. - Lectionary group. Each week we will study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. We will not have our group August 4th and 11th while Pastor Eric is on vacation.

Join Zoom Meeting on your computer by copying or clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/299920158?pwd=WTdLNEx4dXExRHFteFB3RVBjQzN1dz09>

Meeting ID: 299 920 158

Password: 114964

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,299920158#,,1#,114964# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,299920158#,,1#,114964# US (Chicago)

Dial in on your telephone -

+1 312 626 6799, then enter meeting ID: 299 920 158 Password: 114964

Scholarship Committee Car Wash

A car wash, sponsored by the Scholarship Committee, will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Peace Church parking lot. Goodwill offerings accepted and all proceeds go towards student scholarships.

Read With Me Books

Do you know a preschool or early elementary child who could use a 5-7 minute break and enjoys listening to books read aloud? If so, Peace Church has something new to offer on its YouTube channel. "make believe ideas." publishers of the *Read With Me* series, has given permission for six of its Christian stories to be read, recorded, and posted online as part of our summer Christian Education program. Last week, the story of Noah and the Ark was uploaded. Coming soon is the story of five loaves and two small fish. Stories offer friendly and colorful illustrations, along with a lesson in rhyme.

Sunday School Update and Invitation

The Board of Christian Education is recommending Peace Church choose a curriculum for this year's Sunday School that can be shared in person in a classroom, through an online platform, or in print. This way, students will not miss any of their lessons, regardless if we are together in one space, social distancing in classrooms, or enjoying Sunday School at home with our families.

Adults who are interested in teaching Sunday School on a regular, rotating, or occasional basis will have all materials provided! The only thing you need to add is your enthusiasm and love of children and youth! Team teaching is also welcome, so feel free to ask a friend to join you in this adventure! Peace Church is taking all precautions and safety concerns seriously as decisions are made, how and when to gather again.

We offer great thanks to Eric Walker, John Lemke, Becky Manthei, substitutes and youth helpers for teaching our students last year. Sincere thanks also to Kelli Jo and Greg Anderson for their faithful teaching over the past years. As Andersons step away from the classroom this year, we are looking specifically for teachers for combined classes of 1st/2nd Grade and 3rd/4th Grade.

Please consider offering your time and sharing your wisdom with our students. They represent the future of Peace Church, and it is our great blessing to prepare them for that leadership with a solid foundation in their faith journey. Please call, text or email Gayle Van Ess 262-339-0304 gayleve5@yahoo.com or any member of the Board of Christian Education with questions or to volunteer. Thank You!

The Peace Church Book Group meets the first Wednesday of the month beginning in September. Below is the book list and meeting dates.

Book Reading List for 2020 – 2021

The Peace Church Book Group will be meeting Wednesday, September 2, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The book that will be discussed is "Mountains Beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kidder. For more information, contact Lynn Rusch at 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

Cemetery Sexton Wanted: Peace Church has an opening for the Cemetery Sexton position. The sexton's duties consist of laying out and staking gravesites for opening of graves, reseeding graves after burials, supervising the placement of monuments on gravesites, and recording the location of the burials for the cemetery secretary's records. If interested, please inquire at office@peace-ucc.org

Financial Reports

Financial Report June 2020

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of May 31, 2020	\$ (38,876)
Receipts	20,965
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$29,918)
Ending Balance as of 6/30/2020	<u>(\$46,829)</u>

Please know that each month the above balance report only represents our General Fund - the fund designated to meet the operating costs of our church. Thankfully we have sufficient monies in other funds to allow us to continue doing ministry and even dreaming during these times of economic distress. For those who are able, please continue to support the life of our church. For those who are not financially able at this time, offer your gifts in whatever way you can – a prayer, a card, a phone call. Together we will remain strong.

Benevolence Receipts

Kewaskum Food Pantry	140.00
Family Promise	675.00
 Total Benevolence Receipts	 <u>815.00</u>

Consistory Meeting Minutes

Peace United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting Minutes June 9, 2020

Peace UCC Consistory Meeting – June 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

Members present: Paul Behring, Kathy Charland, Steve Falk, Karen Kletti, John A. Lemke, John C. Lemke, Roger Mertz, Dave Roehrig, Ken Singer
Also present: Pastor Eric, Cathy Stern

- A. Call to Order: 6:38 p.m.
- B. Opening Prayer - Pastor Eric began the meeting with a prayer.
- C. Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve, Dave Roehrig, seconded by Paul Behring and carried.
- D. Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2020 meeting: Amendment to New Business: Kewaskum Food Pantry listed twice under Lenten benevolence recipients, should have been Full Shelf Food Pantry. Amendment to Pastor's report – conduction virtual worship through YouTube and Facebook. Motion to approve as amended, Roger Mertz, seconded by John C. Lemke and carried.
- E. Financial Report - Cathy Stern reported that General Fund Income met expenses for the month of May. Motion to accept financial report for May as presented and placed on file for audit by Steve Falk, seconded by Kathy Charland and carried.
- F. Pastor's Report – in his written report that was emailed to consistory members, Pastor Eric shared the joys and challenges of Worship in the Park on the first Sunday of June. Worship in the Park will continue on the first Sunday of July and August. Confirmation is scheduled for the first Sunday in August since the Pignic has been cancelled this year. The remaining services for the summer months will be recorded.
- G. President's Report –
A consistory member is needed to fill the vacant Vice-President position. A member of the congregation is needed to fill a vacant Trustee position.
- H. Mission Moment – Discontinued.
- I. Old Business
 - 1) A replacement for the position of Cemetery Sexton is needed beginning January 2021.
 - 2) Feedback from Sunday's worship in the park was mostly positive, the biggest difficulty being overcoming sound and video problems in recording the service. Social distancing was practiced, nearly everyone wore masks, making those attending feel reasonably safe.
 - 3) After some discussion, the consistory came to a consensus that the church buildings will remain closed to other groups until the church re-opens for worship. The only exception is the Red Cross Blood Drive, after being assured that extra measures will be taken to keep the event safe. No votes were recorded for these decisions.
 - 4) A reminder was given to all committee chairpeople that monthly reports can be submitted early via electronic format.
- J. New Business –
 - 1) A group of Masters level students from Lakeland University will be surveying church members as a service project for the benefit of the church. It is a professionally designed organizational study focusing on the topic of engagement and connection. All members are encouraged to participate.
 - 2) Consistory was updated on the current electronic platforms that are being used to stay connected. All were encouraged to think about how that might look like in the future.
 - 3) In gratitude for their participation in the virtual worship services, a gift of \$250 in cash will be given to Berit and Elsa Kirkegaard and Maelle Leopardo.

K. Committee Reports -

Trustees: Getting bids on patching asphalt in the parking lot due to a caved in catch basin from long ago.
Care & Connection (electronic report by Gayle Van Ess): Pastor Eric and Pastor Bob continue to reach out to members through phone calls and cards. Card ministries by many members are helping the isolated to feel connected. The weekly prayer chain continues to update members with concerns and celebrations.

Faith Formation: electronic report by Gayle Van Ess. Virtual lessons are continuing on YouTube, including Summer Sunday School. VBS will be virtual this year with the theme “Rocky Railroad”
Habitat for Humanity: Youth (16 and older) and adult combined will be working for Washington-Dodge County Habitat on a build in West Bend July 7 – 11.

Endowment Committee: met to review the policy rules and decided no changes to be made at this time.

Mission: Donations to Family Promise from Peace, Holy Trinity, and St. Michaels raised enough funds to house 3 families at AmericaInn the week of May 31 – June 6. Thank you to members who contributed so generously.

L. Lord's Prayer

M. Adjournment: 8:58 p.m.