



*Peace United Church of Christ*

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# The Tidings



February 2021

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

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Twenty years ago, I had the blessing to travel to Haiti as a part of a team that was negotiating a church partnership. It was just around the time of our presidential election, and shortly thereafter, theirs. In the aftermath of our election, we spent weeks examining ballots and all of us learning about “hanging chads” as some 500 ballots in one county held the country in suspense. I don’t remember all of the issues about counting and deadlines, but I have often lifted up the extraordinary power of a democracy that believes deeply enough in a peaceful transition of power that everyone abiding by the decision offer by a divided Supreme Court that stopped the process and awarded Bush the Presidency. I have shared that story because at the same time, Haiti was being torn apart following an election where President Aristide had received 91.7% of the vote but many declared the election questionable. That country erupted in violence and the whole government was thrown into what would be a much too familiar pattern of unrest. The stark contrast has always stuck with me.

I was stunned on the Feast of Epiphany — the occasion when the church celebrates the arrival of the Magi and the proclamation that Jesus’ birth is light for all the world — when suddenly our nation’s capital was thrown into violent unrest. I was stunned to see racist symbols, violence, and the demonization of others grow out of the disgruntled crowd. I still believe that the majority had gathered for a protest rally and not an insurrection. Still, the violent uprising was not entirely unexpected for those of us who had been following the news stories or the rhetoric leading up to the gathering in D.C., and yet at the same time it seemed unimaginable in a country whose values are so counter to these actions.

As I saw images of many of the violent insurrectionists, I saw symbols of Christianity overlaid with politics and rage... and I was deeply saddened. It kept causing me to wonder why it is so hard for Christ’s followers to continue to hear his admonishment to: *“Put away your sword,” ... “Those who use the sword will die by the sword” (Matthew 26:52)*. It had me thinking about how in each of the Gospels one of the disciples pulled out his sword as the empires’ minions came to arrest what they saw as a political threat. *“When those who were around Jesus saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, “**No more of this!**” and he touched his ear and healed him” (Luke 22:49–51)*.

I wonder if Jesus anticipated this violent response to his arrest. Here was one of his followers who had been learning from Jesus about the power of God’s love and grace who suddenly responded in a way that was antithetical to all of Jesus’ teachings. He must have had the sword with him all along... but had Jesus expected that these disciples had learned that it shouldn’t be used against another? In John’s Gospel we even hear this one with the sword named as Simon Peter, the rock upon whom Jesus would build the Church. It must have been a very sad moment when Jesus had to heal that ear and cry out “no more of this!” It must have felt like a teacher who suddenly has a sense that none of the class has understood the foundational lesson.

I heard the comments this week of R.P. Eddy, a former U.S. counterterrorism official and diplomat who now runs a private intelligence firm called Ergo, describe the “invisible obvious”. The idea is that there are things that sit right in front of us that we don’t notice. “The reason

that they are invisible to us ... gets to our biases." We can easily presume that those that look like us or outwardly hold some of our values should be okay, so we are surprised when they don't act as we expect.

As we have seen repeatedly for months, among the masses of peaceful protestors crying for their voices to be heard, there have emerged those who would turn to violence and destruction. There is something about human nature that quickly labels those who are inciting violence as "them," certainly not our team (whatever that may be). We've heard proclamations that have stirred outrage when in the midst of a White Supremacist demonstration in Charlotte there was the affirmation that "there are good people on both sides." I have a hard time processing what a "good racist" might look like... but at some fundamental level, there is a proclamation that there are indeed good people on each side of every conflict, and sometimes those good people can end up engaged in very bad thoughts, words, and actions. This summer we watched the violence blamed on Black Lives Matter and Antifa, even as many of the investigations and arrests offered a much more complex view the ones who were responsible: White Supremacists, Antifa, local gangs, petty thieves, and that small minority of folks who seemed to think that destruction would serve their interests.

I remember so clearly when one of our members broke apart the word prejudice into those simple parts of pre-judging another and pointing out that this goes both ways, both choosing who should be alright as well as who should not. When the division gets deep, it should give us pause to examine how we are adding to the division.

From a spiritual perspective, I hear Jesus' teaching to those disciples as he proclaims "no more" as also being a demand that they look within and examine the invisible obvious within our own hearts. This is the work of a confessional faith that is constantly demanding that we work to align our lives with the ways of a just and gracious God. Faithfulness is not self-serving or violent.

We are living in tense times as a nation. I am grieving that I have lost the ability to tell the story of a nation that trusts all the many faithful people involved in our complex process of elections enough to honor the elections – a nation that asks questions, recounts, even offers court challenges, and then that accepts the outcome.

I fear that what we saw on Epiphany was an illumination of the deep brokenness of a society. As your pastor, I have been profoundly aware that we have always been a congregation that strongly spans that political, theological, social spectrum, and that knows how to love and cherish those who think differently, vote differently, and live differently than ourselves. I have told the story far and wide of this little church called Peace that in this way manages to reflect the Kingdom. In this moment of time, I am desperately missing the buzz of coffee hour where the conversations may or may not touch on difference, but where we remember how we love and care about one another.

I have deep concerns about how we move forward with the love that is so desperately needed to heal our nation. How do we speak in ways that condemn violence in all its forms, that seeks to listen to, see, and honor the other as beloved of God? This could be hard work for us as we move forward, but we know how to do this. We know how to look at one another as beloved even as we stand in our differences. Even in this time when we are also held physically apart, remember who God calls us to be. Look within and seek out the invisible obvious to which each of us may need to attend as we choose Jesus' way of transformative love. This is surely what God is calling us to in this moment. We begin a new year and a new chapter in our nation's history, choose hope, and let us work together at being the body of Christ.

Shalom,

*Pastor Eric*

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## *Worship Schedule for February 2021*

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We continue regathered for worship in our church building at a very limited capacity. Service times have changed to: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Reservations are requested: Please click on the links below or call the church office 626-4011. While the risk level is “Very High” we will be limiting attendance to 20 people per service, in addition to the worship leadership. None of the services since regathering have been completely full, so you are certainly welcome to come and see if there is space for you. But please understand that the 20 person limit will be firm.

PLEASE USE THIS LINK FOR ALL SERVICES AFTER JANUARY 1

<https://peaceuccservices2021.eventbrite.com> (thru 5/30/2021)

We will continue 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 are also now streaming all funeral services and posting those online.

The Church building primarily remains closed with staff working remotely, but please contact us and we will we try to meet any needs you may have.

**Ash Wednesday and Lent Services** – It is strange to realize that we have been living in our present reality as “church” for almost a year. It was just as we had begun Lent that we needed to shift to worshipping Online. We are going to try a couple of different things to feed our souls and center us through this year’s Lenten Season.

- On Ash Wednesday, February 17, Peace Church will offer a **drive-thru Ashes and Communion** opportunity in the parking lot. Come to Peace Church between 4:00 -5:45 p.m. and pull up to the entrance to receive your ashes, communion, and a blessing from Pastor Eric.
- In the past Ash Wednesday has also meant a soup supper. This year Peace Church will host a **chili dinner to go** in the parking lot on Ash Wednesday. Chili will be in to-go containers and can be picked up from 4:00-6:30 p.m. (advanced orders are appreciated- see details on last page of the Tidings)
- There will be an **in-person Ash Wednesday service** at 6:00 p.m. If this service fills-up by the week before, then we will add a second service at 7:30 p.m. You can sign-up for the Ash Wednesday service using this link: [Peace Church Ash Wednesday](#). As always, this service will be available to view online.

- **Midweek Lenten services - Holden Evening Prayer** – For many years we have cherished this musical setting of a vespers service. Because this is a sung service, we will be recording the service in advance and then posting it online each week to be available for viewing by 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We are planning to have reflections from this year's confirmation students included in each of these services.

Sunday, February 7 - 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church** - **COMMUNION**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 • Psalm 147:1-11, 20c • 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 • Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 14- 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**

Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12 • Psalm 50:1-6 • 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 • Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 17- 6:00 p.m. at **Peace Church**

Ash Wednesday – Drive-thru Service (see above for details)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 • Psalm 51:1-17 • 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 •  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 21- 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 • Psalm 25:1-10 • 1 Peter 3:18-22 • Mark 1:9-15

Wednesday, February 24 – posting at 6:30 p.m. **ONLINE**

Holden Evening Prayers with reflections by our Confirmands  
(see above for details)

Sunday, February 28 - 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 • Psalm 22:23-31 • Romans 4:13-25 •  
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

February 2 Ellie Berries (11)  
February 5 Henry Ogi (9)  
February 6 Kathrynne Singer (14)  
February 8 Holly Henk (18)  
February 8 Ethan Singer (16)  
February 11 Ari Schemelin (7)  
February 12 Nelle Ogi (6)  
February 15 Louis Berres (7)  
February 17 Aidan Polzin (15)  
February 20 Cole Loser (13)  
February 20 Lily Van Beek (15)  
February 21 Eva Pendowski (12)  
February 25 Angelena Thull (8)  
February 27 Levi Wiedmeyer (4)

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

February 5 John Coulter (88)  
February 8 Colleen Roe (85)  
February 17 Joe Billmann (80)  
February 23 Ellen Hembel (94)  
February 24 Barbara Westra (80)  
February 27 Hanna Bruenn (80)

### **Anniversaries**

February 25 Gretchen & Dane Martin (9)  
February 28 Jeff & Julann (Zemlicka)  
Retzlaff (34)

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

Alice Stautz – 11/23/2020  
Doug Schleif – 12/13/2020  
Helen Reinke – 12/14/2020  
Loretta Noegel – 1/5/2021

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” **John 14:1-3**

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## *Events and Activities*

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### **Scholarship Fund**

Reminder to all 2020-2021 Scholarship recipients: Your first semester grades need to be turned in to the church office no later than Sunday, February 14, 2021. You can mail your transcripts to Peace Church, P.O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 or email them to [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org). Any questions? Contact the church office at 262-626-4011.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** – Peace Church will be hosting a blood bank on March 3, 2021. Please sign up on at Redcross.org/give.

**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, continues:**

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:

Rev. 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

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## *Financial Reports*

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### Financial Report November 2020

#### General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of October 30, 2020	\$ (50,255)
Receipts	22,801
Cemetery Transfer	0
PPP Loan Forgiven	29,147
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$26,792)
Ending Balance as of 11/30/2020	<u>(\$25,098)</u>

## Benevolence Receipts

WI Conf – VOC	150.00
Giving Tree	450.00
Peace Pantry	1,164.50
Kewaskum Food Pantry	40.00
Dr. Albrecht Free Clinic	50.00
Thanksgiving	130.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>440.00</u>
	1,984.50

### Additional Information:

Project Balances as of 11/30/2020	
Church Kitchen Remodeling Project	13,342.00

## Financial Report December 2020

### General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of November 30, 2020	\$ (25,098)
Receipts	42,656
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$25,257)
Ending Balance as of 12/31/2020	<u>(\$7,699)</u>

## Benevolence Receipts

One Great Hour of Sharing	100.00
VOC	540.00
UCC Mission Match	20.00
Giving Tree	90.00
Peace Pantry	116.00
Thanksgiving	310.00
Christmas	1440.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	100.00
Neighbors in Need	100.00
Family Promise	805.00
Dr. Albrecht Free Clinic	50.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>3671.00</u>

### Additional Information:

Project Balances as of 12/31/2020	
Church Kitchen Remodeling Project	13,402.00



## **Book Reading List for 2020 – 2021**

The Peace Church book discussion group will be meeting February 3, 2021, to discuss *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. The group meets in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Face masks covering both mouth and nose are required and social distancing is practiced.

Future books include "We Were the Lucky Ones" by Georgia Hunter (March 3), "Educated" by Tara Westover (April 7), "Ask Again, Yes" by Mary Beth Keane (May 5), and "Finding Chika" by Mitch Albom (June 2). The group does not meet in July or August.

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

## **Caring For Those Around Us**

The Giving Tree - In 2020 Peace Church helped numerous families with gift cards. A total of \$1,075 worth of gift cards were given to the Giving Tree from our congregation! Thank you!

### Family Promise:

Friends of Peace Church have continued to show such great generosity to caring for those around us. In December we provided a week of meals to the 2 families housed in the Family Promise Center.

In the giving spirit of the holidays, we also supplied gift cards during the last week of December. Families were treated to local carryout, Aldi's, and Kwik Trip. The children were beyond excited to get a Happy Meal!! The response from our congregation was outstanding. THANK YOU!

### Family Promise monetary donations:

Consistory voted to use the Family Promise donations that are sent to church on a monthly basis in this way:

We will keep all money in the church account for a quarter of the year. As our obligation to host comes up quarterly, we will use money as needed for hosting. Whatever is left in the account, will then be donated to the Family Promise organization. If you have questions, please contact the Office or Kathy Charland. Again, thank you for your generosity!

## Peace Pantry:

It is somewhat more challenging to keep our Peace Pantry supplied during the cold months. Please do not leave canned or glass container foods. Thank you to the Brat Fry fundraiser in November, we are able to keep it stocked with items that can handle the temperatures! Cereal, granola bars, juice, are desired items! Bread and sandwich meat will survive the cold. The pantry is checked regularly to discard outdated items. A survey has been placed in the pantry to see if there is a need/desire for a monthly drive through event where we will offer fresh foods. Results will be posted in the March Tidings.

# Please Join Us

MONDAY, FEB. 1, 2021 | 6:30-8 P.M.

**ANTISEMITISM, ISLAMOPHOBIA, AND CHRISTIANITY:**  
*sharing our faith stories to increase understanding and respect.*

Fear, distrust, and misinformation have often characterized the relationships between Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities. This is still the case today. Featuring a panel of Jewish, Muslim and Christian thinkers, this program will help participants understand forms of antisemitism and Islamophobia in contemporary American society, and dispel the biases that contribute to these occurrences of prejudice and hate. The presentation will include time for questions.

To receive a Zoom link or phone number to access this virtual program, please register at [Lakeland.edu/interfaith](http://Lakeland.edu/interfaith) by Jan. 28 or call 920-565-1023 ext. 2151.

## HELD VIA ZOOM MEETING

Featured panelists are Dr. Charles Cohen, E. Gordon Fox Professor of American Institutions, Emeritus, at UW-Madison, Dr. Sulfiqar Shah, Director of Religious Affairs of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, and Rev. Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena, Ulrich Ethicist in Residence, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Chaplain at Lakeland University. The panel will be moderated by Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn, Grace Chair of Religious Studies and Professor of Religion at Lakeland University.



*This program is sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference UCC Christian Education/Faith Formation Commission and Lakeland University.*



In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

**“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”**


Since then, more than \$160 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Through this mission, young people learn to make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Share in God’s love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday. All of the donations collected **stays in the community to help fight hunger. Our collection at Peace Church will go to the Kewaskum Community Pantry, Peace Food Pantry and to the Full Shelf Food Pantry in West Bend.**

**Because of COVID-19, we will be taking cash donations only. Please make your check out to Peace UCC and note that your donation is for Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you!**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February Fun Fines</b>	<b>1</b> Pay 10¢ for each time you rode in a vehicle today.	<b>2</b> Pay 54¢--a penny for each year the Super Bowl has been played,	<b>3</b> Pay 50¢ for every meal you had today where fish, meat or chicken was served.	<b>4</b> Pay 20¢ for each box of cereal you have in your cupboard. Grain is a major source of food worldwide.	<b>5</b> Add your phone number and pay the total. (Ex. 262-626-4011: 2+6+2+6+2+6+4+0+1+1= 30¢).	<b>6</b> Pay 20¢ for each bag of frozen food in your freezer. In many countries people have no freezers.
<b>7</b> Donate to a local Food Pantry sometime this month. Many people do not have enough to eat.	<b>8</b> Pay 5¢ for each letter in your full name.	<b>9</b> Donate to the Peace Food Pantry.	<b>10</b> Pay \$1 for each meal and snack you ate today remembering those who go hungry.	<b>11</b> Pay 10¢ for each glass of water you drank today. Many people in the world do not have clean water.	<b>12</b> Lincoln's Birthday— Pay 56¢--one year for each year Lincoln lived.	<b>13</b> Pay \$1 if you spent more than one hour on Facebook today.
<b>14♥</b> Happy Valentine's Day! Do a random act of kindness—all fun/no fine!	<b>15</b> Presidents' Day Pay 45¢--a penny for each presidential administration.	<b>16</b> Pay 10¢ for each pair of shoes you own	<b>17</b> Pay 20¢ for each of your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren or pets.	<b>18</b> Pay 50¢ for every time you Googled today.	<b>19</b> Pay whatever your grateful heart desires.	<b>20</b> Pay \$1 if you have not been sick this month. Thank God for good health.
<b>21</b> Put all your change into the fun fines.	<b>22</b> Pay \$1 if you have not read the Tidings this month.	<b>23</b> Pay 50¢ if you cannot name three or more members of the Consistory.	<b>24</b> Pay 25¢ for each day this month that you did not pay a fine.	<b>25</b> Pay 50¢ for every TV in your home.	<b>26</b> Pay 10¢ for each piece of candy that you have in your secret stash.	<b>27</b> Pay 50¢ if your birthday is in February.
<b>28</b> Add all your fines together and round up to the next dollar; pay your fines! Thank You!						

# FRIENDSHIP

“Friendship Sunday” will look different this year! Instead of gathering in Fellowship Hall on February 14<sup>th</sup> for ice cream, we encourage you to support local businesses and treat yourself to something sweet! (Candy Tree, Coffee Corner, and Piggly Wiggly have been great supporters of Peace Church through the years!)

Also, please consider sharing a friendship “greeting” with a member of Peace Church through a card or phone call!



No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, we LOVE you!!!

**Peace Church - Board of Christian Education**

P.S. Sunday School and Confirmation Families... watch for a special packet coming to your home in the last week of January! It will include a friendship treat and all the lesson materials and projects for February – May, including Friendship Sunday, Lent and Easter!

# Peace UCC - Chili Dinner



**Date: Wednesday February 17th, 2021**

**Time: 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM**

**Peace United Church of Christ Parking Lot Entrance**

**All choices are in pint containers.**

Type	Quantity	Suggested Donation	Sub Total
Regular Chili		\$5.00	
Gluten-Free Chili NO noodles		\$6.00	
Vegan Chili		\$6.00	
		<b>Total =</b>	

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Info:** \_\_\_\_\_

(phone number or email)

Proceeds will go to Peace United Church of Christ and 10% of that will go to Dr. Albrecht Free Clinic.

Pastor Eric will be administrating Ash Wednesday ashes from 4:00 PM - 5:45PM at the church parking lot entrance.