



*Peace United Church of Christ*

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# The Tidings



February 2022

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## *From the Pastor's Study •*

### *February 2022*

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This morning was aswirl with conversations about the ongoing legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement. To listen to the various discussions about where we began as a nation and how far we still have to go, were both inspiring and deeply challenging. We are people of great hope who, at our best, learn from the past and use it as strength to imagine the still unrealized future. This morning I heard a reference to African American Spirituals and the way that they straightened out question marks and turned them into exclamation points... it was a compelling image. The description was brought home with the familiar Spiritual which had taken Jeremiah 8:22's question and flipped it on its head. In the aftermath of the destruction of Jerusalem, the people's long exile and hoped-for return, Jeremiah asked the question: *Is there no balm in Gilead? Can no physician be found? Why has healing not yet come to my poor people?* But we all know how the spiritual rings out with all of its familiarity: *There is a balm in Gilead! To make the wounded whole. There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Two years ago, we couldn't have predicted how a pandemic would have impacted our society, our economy, our churches. For the church in America, we were already in a place of trying to discern how God's spirit was leading us into unknown territories. Clearly, the church has been steadily changing for many decades. The question that would have been reasonable decades ago of "what church do you attend?" now would more naturally be the question of whether or not a person attends a church at all. Many of us in the old Mainline denominations have wondered where we are heading in our witnessing to the love and grace of God for ALL the world. This has felt like an even harder question to ask as the dominant voices within Christianity have become those of fear, guilt, or a love-of-God which can sound small and transactional rather than extravagant and grace-filled beyond our imaginings. Our world has become a series of question marks: What is the future? When will this pandemic end? What will the outcome be for our economy? or even something as simple as someone asking what is our current membership? To each of those questions there are no clear answers – and that is a strange place to journey for two years with some saying we may have a couple more ahead of us. What seems clear is that we are running a marathon rather than a sprint. And what seems equally clear is that we would do well to learn from those who lived in the midst of darkness and oppression that exceeds our imaginations, to learn from a slave's song that turns question marks in exclamation points that there is a balm, there IS a promise before us. We are invited to sing it out and to live it with all that we've got as a proclamation that God's strength is greater... greater than anything we may be able to imagine.

Life is always a journey of choice and perspective! That said, there are many times when we can too easily get locked into our familiar ways and fail to imagine how we might straighten a crooked line.

In a few weeks, we will once again embark on another journey together as we begin a Sabbatical time from February 7<sup>th</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be traveling separately, but the opportunity for each of us is to listen for how God is calling us into a future yet unknown. You will have the blessing of lots of different voices leading worship, hopefully connecting you more deeply to the Wider UCC, as well as offering a different perspective than what I might offer. I will be taking the opportunity to spend lots of time reading and in prayer as Laura and I travel with our trailer along a path yet unknown. We are

hoping to explore a sampling of our country's National Parks, Forests, and natural spaces. We are looking forward to reconnecting with old friends and one another, to witness to Berit's graduation, and all along the way for me to reconnect again with God's call for my ministry. The great hope is that as we reconnect in June, we all are refreshed and reinvigorated to reunite our journeys.

For the church's part, this is a great opportunity to reaffirm how strong and capable Peace UCC is and has always been. I have always celebrated that this church is quite clearly God's church, not mine, not even yours. We are all passing through, giving thanks that this was a strong church before any one of us arrived, and our prayer is that it will be a strong church when any one of us is gone. This time of Sabbatical is a great time for people in the church to step up to the challenge of reaffirming that strength together.

Of course, we undertake this journey in the midst of one of the most challenging times that the church has experienced in most of our lifetimes. The pandemic has strained our capacity to do what we have always done... and that may not quickly change. But that crooked line can be straightened into a proclamation of trusting that God is working here through each of us.

I will be praying for all of you, and for God's guidance for the church. And Laura and I will certainly welcome your prayers for us as we journey. May we encounter God's blessings in our sabbath journey together apart.

*PASTOR ERIC*

Pastor Eric will be on Sabbatical from February 7, 2022, through June 4, 2022.

From June 5 through June 11, Pastor Eric will be helping to lead the High School Habitat Trip. He will return to the pulpit on June 12, 2022.

While Pastor Eric is gone, if you have an emergency and need to reach a pastor, please call either the church office at 262-626-4011. or Rev. Sharon Stier at 414-531-0837.

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## *Worship Schedule for February 2022*

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Sunday, February 6 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – **COMMUNION – Pastor Eric preaching**

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) • Psalm 138 • 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 • Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, February 13- 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – **Rev. Franz Rigert preaching**

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 • Psalm 1 • 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 • Luke 6:17-26

Sunday, February 20 - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – **Rev. Sharon Stier preaching**

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 • Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 • 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 • Luke 6:27-38

Sunday, February 27, 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. – **Rev. Julie Jennings preaching**

Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35 • Psalm 99 • 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 • Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

February 2 Ellie Berres  
February 5 Henry Ogi  
February 6 Katie Singer  
February 8 Ethan Singer  
February 11 Ari Schemelin  
February 15 Louis Berres  
February 17 Aidan Polzin  
February 20 Cole Loser, Lilly Van Beek  
February 21 Eva Pendowski  
February 25 Angelena Thull  
February 27 Levi Wiedmeyer

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

Feb. 8 Colleen Roe (86)  
Feb. 17 Joe Billmann (81)  
Feb. 24 Barbara Westra (81)  
Feb. 27 Hanna Bruenn (81)

### **Anniversaries**

Feb. 25 Gretchen & Dane Martin  
Feb. 28 Jeff & Julann Retzlaff

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

Sandy John – 11/18/2021

Michael Schmidt, Sr. – 11/27/2022

Rev. David Schwingle – 1/7-2022

Betty Skaug – 1/11/2022

“O Lord, we call upon You in our time of sorrow, that You give us the strength and will to bear our heavy burdens, until we can again feel the warmth and love of Your divine compassion. Be mindful of us and have mercy on us while we struggle to comprehend life's hardships.”

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## *Events and Activities*

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### **Middle School Youth Group**

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

- **February : watch the bulletin for even more events and activities!**

- 2/4 – Dinner, games and fellowship at church 5-8 p.m.
- 2/12 – Service Project with St. John's UCC – Hartford\*\*

**\*\* we are looking for other Peace Church volunteers to assist with this service project – St. John's UCC in Hartford has closed and there will be a clean-up day on 2/12 to prepare the church for sale. The cleaning projects are to tidy up rooms, removing paper of recycling, organizing tiems to go to Goodwill, and moving some tables. Please contact Karen Kletti (262-224-2212) if you are interested.**

### **Book Group**

The Peace Church book group will be meeting on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the second floor music room. The group will be discussing both last month's book, "A Woman in the Window", as well as this month's section, "The Book of Lost Names" by Kristin Harmel. The March 2nd book is "In an Instant" by Suzanne Redfearn. Masks are required during our meeting. For more information on the book group, please contact Lynn Rusch at [lynnrusch@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnrusch@yahoo.com) or 262-306-4025.

### **Scholarship Fund**

Reminder to all 2021-2022 Scholarship recipients: Your first semester grades need to be turned in to the church office no later than **Tuesday, February 1, 2022**. 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.

### **Gingerbread House - Giving Tree**

In 2021, Peace Church helped numerous families with gift cards for Christmas. A total of \$1,315 worth of gift cards were given to the Giving Tree from our congregation. Thank you Peace Church!

**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 in the pantry. Cereal, granola bars, frozen dinners, snacks, and paper goods are desired items.

### **Soap Sale!**

Peace Church has homemade soap for sale. The bars of soap, at a cost of \$5.00 per bar, are available at each entrance or call the church office to reserve yours (delivery is an option). All proceeds go to the General Fund. A huge thank you to Karen Kletti and Mary Steinhardt for providing the homemade soap!

### **Mitten Ministry**

In November we dedicated 10 large bags of hats, mittens, and scarves. These were taken to Farmington School, West Bend Food Pantry, Kewaskum Foot Pantry, Peace Church Food Pantry, FRIENDS, Inc, and the Gingerbread House of Washington County. The donations were much appreciated, and we thank everyone who made and/or bought items for this effort.

This ministry was started in 1986 by Betty Bettin, wife of Pastor Jim Bettin. She was the group leader until Pastor Bettin retired and moved to Sheboygan. Since that time Nancy Panzer has been the 'go to' person. But time moves on and it is time for a new 'go to' person to step up. This is not a large commitment. Nancy will happily give you information on the duties involved. Please contact Nancy if you are interested. Phone: 262\*626-2817. Thank you to everyone for your years of dedication.

### **Thank You From Peace Church**

A huge thank you to Janel Gassner and Sarah Guillaume for volunteering to the Church Decorating Committee. The church looked beautiful this Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season!

### **Thank you, Peace Church!**

Thanks Peace Church and the Sunday School Children for all the holiday cards I received, as well as the poinsettia plant. Dolores Terlinden

Many thanks to our Peace Church Family for the beautiful poinsettia plant. A special thank you to Karen Grundahl for delivering it on a very blustery winter day. Blessings, Dennis and Cheryl Novotny

I would like to extend a huge Thanks to the many Peace members and Pastor Eric who were such a blessing to me during my recent health issues. The food, visits, cards, and calls were so appreciated. There certainly are some living saints right here at Peace! Also, the laughter shared was an added bonus!  
Thank you so very much, Jackie McCurdy

Dear Peace Church Members,  
Thanks for your support of the Kewaskum Food Pantry during the 2021 year. We are also thankful to the Women@Peace's Mitten Ministry, who are keeping our families warm with the beautiful knit scarves, mittens, and hats we received. They were a hit with our families. Happy New Year to all of you! Sincerely, K.C. Pantry Volunteers

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## *Financial Report*

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### Financial Report December 2021

#### **General Fund**

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of November 30, 2021	\$ (32,174)
Receipts	34,548
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	50
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$27,254)
Ending Balance as of 12/30/2021	<u>(\$24,830)</u>

#### **Benevolence Receipts**

One Great Hour of Sharing	50.00
VOC	100.00
Peace Pantry	280.00
Dr. Albrecht Free Clinic	100.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	380.00
Christmas	2250.00
Thanksgiving	25.00
Giving Tree	125.00
Family Promise	425.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>3735.00</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project                      \$11,647.00

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# *Consistory Meeting Minutes*

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**Peace United Church of Christ  
Consistory Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2021**

Members present: Lisa Atwater, Paul Behring, Kathy Charland, Karen Kletti, Tom Kolb, John A. Lemke, Becky Manthei, Roger Mertz, Clark Pearson

Also present: Pastor Eric, Cathy Stern (Treasurer)

- A. Call to order: 6:37 pm
- B. Opening prayer
- C. Approval of agenda:  
amendments: 1. Add to Old Business: Update on sign. Add to New Business: Pastor's health insurance.  
Approve: Pearson/Behring. Carried
- D. Approve minutes from 10/12/2021. Motion to approve Charland/Atwater Carried.
- E. Financial report:  
Motion to accept the financial report and put on file for audit by Kolb/Pearson
- F. Pastor's report: Pastor Eric submitted written report.
- G. Pres. Report  
Pres. Report: Expressed gratitude to all who have answered the call to serve.
- H. Old business: Sign update: A new aluminum sign for the front of the church has been bid by Trendsetters for \$165. Approved by the Trustees to order the sign.
- I. New business: Pastor's Health Insurance – will be switching to a high deductible policy available from the UCC in March. Approved by the consistory at no extra cost to the church.  
Policy reviews – Investment and Endowment committees are to review the policies set forth and are expected to follow those policies.  
Consistory positions open for 2022: 1 Elder, 2 Trustees. These positions are still open since no one volunteered to fill them at the annual meeting.  
Voting results 2021 Annual Meeting:  
Motion: Do you approve of the proposed General Fund Budget understanding the financial implications?  
Yes: 87  
No: 1  
Abstain: 1  
  
Motion: Do you approve of the proposed Mission Statement as written?  
Yes: 89  
No: 1  
Abstain: 0  
  
Motion: Do you approve of the Associate Pastor position?  
Yes: 79  
No: 4  
Abstain: 3
- J. Committee Reports  
Faith Formation – upcoming events include participation in Kewaskum Christmas Parade, Cookie Hunt,



Children's Christmas Program, Sunday School Crafts and Advent candles.

Kitchen Remodel – final drawings are completed with meetings for contractor bids to begin shortly.

Deacons – will meet on Sunday, Nov. 21 to discuss investments and endowment policies.

K. Lord's Prayer

L. Adjournment-8:25 p.m.

Next meeting: December 14, 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted: R. Mertz

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

Members present: Lisa Atwater, Paul Behring, Kathy Charland, Karen Kletti, Tom Kolb, John A. Lemke, Becky Manthei, Roger Mertz, Melissa Polzin

Absent: John Lemke, Sr., Clark Pearson Also present: Pastor Eric

A. Call to order: 6:40 pm

B. Opening prayer and welcome to new Consistory members (Melissa Polzin, Marnie Winninghoff)

C. Approval of agenda:

a. amendments: Add to Old Business: Update on search for Associate Pastor and new Visitation Minister Motion to approve: Kletti/Atwater. Carried

D. Approve minutes from 11/09/2021. Change under new business: Two trustee positions are open instead of two deacon positions. Motion to approve Kolb/Behring Carried.

E. Financial report: Current status reported in the monthly report submitted by Treasurer Cathy Stern. End of year figures will be presented next month.

F. Pastor's report: Pastor Eric submitted written report. He expressed deep thanks to Pastor Bob Blackburn for his amazing ministry as Visitation Minister as he retires at the end of the year. Grateful to Rev. Russ Knoth for offering communion each month since September. Has been working to line up preachers and pastoral services while he is away on sabbatical. Recognizes all who have volunteered in so many ways to sustain the activities of the church as a whole.

G. Pres. Report: John Lemke led a review of how to determine best the disbursement of help from the Deacon's Fund.

H. Old business: Policy Review on Investment and Endowment Funds John Lemke will meet with Investment and Endowment Committees on adhering to the policy written or formally changing the existing policy. 2) Open consistory positions that still be to be filled: 1 Elder and 2 Trustees. 3) Update on search of Associate Pastor: Peace Church profile has been submitted to the Association and Conference, thus beginning search. 4) Motion to offer to Rev. Sharon Stier to fill the position of Interim Visitation and Continuity Pastor for 6 months at half-time for a salary of \$9100. Motion to approve: Charland/Atwater. Carried.

I. New business: Pulpit supply – increase pulpit supply honorarium to \$250 per Sunday to follow UCC Southeast Association recommendations effective January 1, 2022. Motion to approve by Atwater/Kletti. Carried. 2) Building Use Policy – At the present time, each building use request is individually considered. Discussion on whether the building use policy needs to be reviewed. No action taken.

J. Committee Reports

a. Trustee – Glass in narthex repaired. Rummage sale raised \$622 for General Fund.

b. Deacons – A plan to allocate Memorial Funds was presented by John Lemke.

c. Kitchen Remodel – Two contractors have submitted bids. Three other contractors declined to submit bids because their schedules for next year have already been filled.

K. Lord's Prayer

L. Adjournment- 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting: January 11, 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted: R. Mertz

## Peace United Church of Christ 2022 Consistory Members & Staff

### President

Kathy Charland 262-626-4687 charland22056@gmail.com

### Vice President

Pearson, Clark 262-626-4594 clarkp@charter.net

### Secretary

Becky Manthei 262-388-9426 bmanthei@exede.net

### Elders

Martha Wilson (12/31/22) 262-343-6967 mahw57@gmail.com  
Ken Singer (12/31/23) 262-389-4159 kensinger@live.com  
Mark Bocher (12/31/24) 262-685-7798 mbocher8@gmail.com

### Deacons

Lisa Atwater (6/21/2024) 717-910-1561 lisaatwater@gmail.com  
John A. Lemke (12/31/22) 262-853-6064 kraft64@charter.net  
Melissa Polzin (12/31/24) 920-988-3250 gault\_m2@hotmail.com  
Tom Kolb (12/31/22) 262-893-7647 stkolb@nconnect.net  
Kathy Charland (Pres) (12/31/23) 262-626-4687 charland22056@gmail.com  
Marnie Winninghoff (12/31/24) 303-501-5134 mhwinninghoff@gmail.com

### Trustees

Paul Behring (12/31/23) 262-689-7888 paulbehring@yahoo.com  
Becky Manthei (12/31/21) (Sec.) 262-388-9426 bmanthei@exede.net  
Karen Kletti (12/31/22) 262-224-2212 kmkletti@gmail.com  
Brad Preder (12/31/2024) 262-388-0595 preder2314@charter.net  
Pearson, Clark (12/31/23) (VP) 262-626-4594 clarkp@charter.net  
Vacant

### Staff

Treasurer - Cathy Stern 262-626-6644 catstern@hotmail.com  
Pastor - Rev. J. Eric Kirkegaard 262-626-1655 (h) pastor@peace-ucc.org  
Cell: 262-707-0758  
Interim Visitation Minister – Sharon Stier 262-335-3945 sstier@outlook.com  
Church Sexton – Roger Lindgren 262-355-5673 stringerwis@hotmail.com  
Church Custodian - Dan Rundquist 262-707-3899  
Office Manager - Robin Mock 262-626-4011 (church) office@peace-ucc.org  
Faith Formation Coordinator – Kathy Charland (interim) faithformation@peace-ucc.org care@peace-ucc.org

## **Pulpit Supply Profiles – Pastor Eric Sabbatical 2022**

**Rev. Franz Rigert** served as pastor to Pilgrim UCC in Grafton for nearly 20 years until he was called by the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ to serve as Conference Minister.

**Rev. Sharon Stier** is a recently retired pastor who served congregations in Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin. Worship leadership, Christian Education, Youth, Family Life, Pastoral Care and Mission ministries were included in her work with these churches. She also serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Washington and Dodge Counties.

**Rev. Julie Jennings** is the current Vice President of Spiritual Care and Wellbeing at Cedar Community in West Bend. Rev. Jennings previously served as the Chaplain at Every Child's Hope in St. Louis, MO, which is dedicated to preventing child abuse, treating emotional trauma and mental health issues, and providing aftercare and follow-up services.

**Rev. Kim Henning** served as the beloved head pastor at Grace Congregational UCC in Two Rivers for over 33 years until his retirement in August 2021.

**Rev. Jim Schleif** served in the Navy and had a 28-year career in commercial nuclear power before pursuing a true sense of calling to ministry. He served as pastor at St. John's UCC in Hartford and Slinger. Rev. Schleif currently serves at the UCCI (United Church Camps Inc.) Director of Ministry and Site Operations.

**Rev. Andrew Warner** serves as Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. Before joining the conference staff in 2019, Andrew served for 22 years as pastor of Plymouth UCC of Milwaukee. Andrew also serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer of the national setting of the UCC.

**Rev. Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena**, is the Chaplain at Lakeland University in Sheboygan County. Dr. Mavity Maddalena also serves as the Ethicist in Residence, Director of the Ulrich Center and is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Lakeland.

**Rev. Russ Knoth** is a retired Pastor of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Knoth also serves as the volunteer Police Chaplain to the Menomonee Police and Fire Department since 1989. Rev. Knoth, a member of Peace Church, serves as a frequent visiting minister to Peace UCC.

**Chaplain, Rev. Emma Landowski-Sancomb**, a former Kewaskum resident, served as the Resident Chaplain at SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital until she recently accepted the position of Chaplain at Ascension.