



Peace United Church of Christ

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July 2020



The Tidings

From the Pastor's Study • July 2020

¹How long, O LORD; will You ignore me forever?

How long will You hide Your face from me?

***²How long will I have cares on my mind,
grief in my heart all day?***

[...]

***⁵But I trust in Your faithfulness,
my heart will exult in Your deliverance.***

***I will sing to the LORD,
for He has been good to me.***

Psalm 13

The other day I once again hit that all too familiar wall of feeling like “how long, God, is all of this going to go on?” The uncertainties of living in an altered world are exhausting. If the pandemic hasn’t worn us out, then certainly the challenges of protests and calls to address a deep history of racism and the outgrowths of deep historical inequalities weigh heavily on the heart and soul. There are calls for us to be moving toward a different way of being in our world, but those calls always mean that we need to be willing to grow and to be transformed in our ways of thinking and being on every front. That challenge quickly feels overwhelming and I find myself hearing again the words of lament that play out throughout the Psalms and much of scripture. But what I love is that almost always those words of lament conclude with words of trust and faithfulness, singing and goodness. Psalm 13 contains that dichotomy so beautifully. In those words I hear not only a proclamation of hope, a way where we see no way, but I also hear a tendency that scripture offers in lots of different ways – whether it’s multiple stories of creation, or multiple accounts of kingdoms, or multiple accounts of the life of Jesus that are each unique and often different enough that they beg not to be simply harmonized. It’s a lesson that we could learn a great deal from in our own world in these moments when the polarization seems to have grown ever greater on so many fronts. I keep feeling a deep resistance to the binary thinking that is being so constantly fueled in our world. The simplicity of us and them, of self-righteousness or demonization, feels so counter to God’s witness of love.

I preached a few weeks ago about the power of a spirit of curiosity. I had that Psalm running through my head this week and smiled as I entertained that spirit of curiosity about how the Psalmist could proclaim abandonment and lament right alongside of faithfulness and exultant singing. If two such potent emotions can exist alongside one another, then why not engage our spirit of curiosity with some of the other things that seem destined to strain our beings?

Jesus tells us that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves... he teaches us to pray Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done... there's this beautiful challenge for us to treat the other as a reflection of God. To learn and listen from those who may see the world very different from ourselves. To counter everything from pandemic restrictions, to race relations, to questions about how to handle monuments to an imperfect history with the kind of generous curiosity that might help us to learn God's ways. Most weeks you will hear me praying in church for justice. Theologically justice aspires to treat everyone and everything as God-breathed. For people it is the understanding that we carry the very image of God in our being. It pushes us to work toward a fairness that honors and learns to love and cherish the story of everyone, as well as to understand that God's blessings have not been equally shared through the ages.

We have a lot of work to do in growing into the responsibility of reflecting God's love... this week I'm feeling like part of that begins by again practicing holding both/and instead of either/or thinking. By grace God has called all of us to be the body of Christ, when we work together in all of our diversity, and honor all the parts of that body, then we draw a little closer to that kingdom proclamation of walking in God's faithfulness and knowing the song of God's goodness in our lives.

God's Shalom I pray,

Pastor ERIC

Worship in the Park

Sunday, July 5, 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.

(we will record this service and make it 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.

We are planning an additional outdoor service on **August 2nd and we will have Confirmation during the 9:30 a.m. service.** If you have any questions regarding the outdoor services, please contact the church office.

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, July 5 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **River Hill Park**

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13 ●
Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14 ● Romans 7:15-25a ● Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 12 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112 ● Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13 ●
Romans 8:1-11 ● Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 ● Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or
Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17 ● Romans 8:12-25 ● Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 26 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 ● 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm
119:129-136 ● Romans 8:26-39 ● Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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 – Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

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 - Online premiering at 8:00 a.m.

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)

July 5 Hunter Loser
July 13 Kalina Clark
July 18 Karissa Anderson
July 29 Rachel Anderson, Austin Rahmer

Anniversaries

July 3 Karen & John Staehler (55)
July 6 Albert & Sue Hembel (46)
Josh & Taylor O'Brien-Flasch (8)
July 7 John & Karen Kletti (41)
July 9 Loran & Rozanne Butzlaff (54)
July 10 Todd & Debra Stern (27)
July 11 Pat & Mugs McFadden (56)
July 12 Gary & Joyce Terlinden (51)
July 14 Tom & Joan Schleif (16)
July 18 Ron & Bonnie Will (40)
July 27 Tom & Kris Bier (29), Karla & Joshua Spaits (1)
July 28 Donald & Carol Sedgwick (69)

Birthdays (80 years plus)

July 1 Rachel Kluever (82)
July 1 Tom Schleif (86)
July 3 Nancy Panzer (83)
July 8 Joan Schleif (81)
July 14 Harvey Brodzeller (80)
July 17 Helen Reinke (94)
July 19 Bunny Scannell (91)
July 21 Carol Gardner (80)
July 22 Ruth Schmitt (80)
July 23 Jim Meinberg (87)
July 23 Charles "Doc" Ogi (95)

Events and Activities

Tuesdays at 10 am. - Lectionary group. Each week we will study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday.

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



It's Hammer Time - Peace Habitat Needs You!

Peace Habitat will be working on building a new house from July 7 – 11, 2020. We welcome you to join us – here are the details:

Address of the build is 2030 N. Western Ave, West Bend. Please bring your own lunch, safety glasses, hearing protection, and a tool belt and hammer if you have them. Handwashing station is on-site, and mask-wearing is optional. You can work one day or the whole week...the choice is yours!

This build is open to anyone over the age of 16 and under 100. To sign up, please contact Karen Kletti at 262-224-2212 or the church office at 262-626-4011.

Peace Pantry



Peace Pantry, located in the parking lot of Peace UCC Kewaskum is an outreach effort to support ANYONE who is in need! The pantry can be also be stocked by anyone! We encourage non-perishables, toothpaste, toothbrushes, household detergents (no harsh chemicals please), and other personal care items.

The pantry is open 24-7. You may drop off items or take items if you need! The Peace Pantry is open to the community...it takes a village.

Rocky Railway VBS is on the way!



Virtual VBS premieres Monday, July 27th. Join friends from Peace Church and other Kewaskum families on a special adventure learning about Jesus' power!!! Virtual VBS allows you to watch, sing, and learn on your schedule right at home!!! Children ages 4-11 are invited to participate. Watch for registration forms coming soon. Older kids can help too... watch for announcements. Join Ramsey, Ava, Sierra, Finn, and Lawrence as they share the fun of virtual VBS!

Please contact Jamie Piittmann, Pam Berres, or Becky Manthei for more information.

Summer Sunday School News



Be sure to tune into the Peace Church YouTube channel through the entire summer... June, July, and August! Follow the Sunday School link at: www.peace-ucc.org Each week, Ms. Alexia will offer a fun lesson and introduce you to one of the famous characters you know and love...

cowboy, space ranger, slinky, T-rex and MORE! Plus, you'll learn what toys can teach you about serving God, and the different people in the Bible who carried out God's purposes. Tune in any day or time. We'll be here for 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

<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 May 2020

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of April 30, 2020	\$ (40,091)
Receipts	24,931
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$23,716)
Ending Balance as of 04/30/2020	<u>(\$38,876)</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

WI Conf. Strength the Church	110.00
Lenten	15.00
Easter	30.00
Maundy Thurs	5.00
Good Friday	15.00
Full Shelf Food Pantry	25.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	175.00
Family Promisre	250.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>625.00</u>

Consistory Meeting Minutes

Peace United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting Minutes May 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting Members Present:

Members present: Paul Behring, Kathy Charland, Steve Falk, Karen Kletti, Tom Kolb, John A. Lemke, John C. Lemke, Roger Mertz, Dave Roehrig, Ken Singer

Also present: Pastor Eric, Cathy Stern

- A. Call to Order: 6:37 p.m.
- B. Opening Prayer - Pastor Eric began the meeting with a prayer.
- C. Approval of Agenda - Old Business Addition: Plan for re-opening. New Business Additions: a) Family Promise Update b) Consistory Member Resignation. Motion to approve John C. Lemke, seconded by Paul Behring and carried.
- D. Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2020 meeting: Amendment to New Business: A total of \$2,000 was distributed equally in the amount of \$500 each to Kewaskum Food Pantry, Kewaskum Food Pantry, Kewaskum Boys and Girls Club, UCC Disaster Relief Fund. Motion to approve as amended, Roger Mertz, seconded by John C. Lemke and carried.
- E. Financial Report - Kathy Stern reported that contributions to the General Fund in April were enough to cover our expenses for the month. Thank you, Congregation. Additional Lenten Benevolence of \$1000 was distributed to the four charities mentioned above in the amount of \$250 each. Motion to accept financial report for April as presented and placed on file for audit Dave Roehrig, seconded by John C. Lemke and carried.
- F. Pastor's Report - E-mailed to all consistory members
 - 1) Assisted our Secretary, Treasurer, and President with filling out the paperwork to apply for PPP loan from our bank, Westbury Bank.
 - 2) Conducting Virtual Church through ZOOM: Sunday Worship, Lectionary Study, Confirmation Class, Faith Formation, and numerous other Zoom meeting.
 - 3) Presided over a non-member funeral for Jonesy Korth on May 1
 - 4) Expressed concern for members who are not connected though the virtual services and urged all to respond to their needs.
 - 5) Guidance from the UCC WI Conference and WI Council of Churches is taken into account when considering what Peace Church should be doing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- G. President's Report –
 - 1) Sent a letter to the Congregation in early May.
 - 2) Hopes all members fill out the servant keeper forms. Reach out to our Office Manager, Robin Mock, if assistance is needed.
- H. Mission Moment – None
- I. Old Business

- 1) CD Purchase: The President reported the process has begun, using Memorial money funds which are designated but not yet spent.
- 2) Plan for re-opening: Discussion concerning how Peace Church should proceed with allowing use of the church buildings and options for Worship gatherings. Agreement was reached to follow WI Council of Churches guidelines and Badger Bounce-Back procedures.

J. New Business –

- 1)PPP - (Payment Protection Plan) An application for a PPP loan from the recent Economic Stimulus Package has been approved in the amount of \$29,147. This aid is intended to help small businesses and non-profits to maintain employees on the payroll. The term is 2 years at 1% interest. If 75% of this loan is used for eligible expenses within 8 weeks, the entire loan may be forgiven. Eligible expenses include salaries, health insurance, phone and utilities expenses and more. Motion to accept the PPP loan by Roger Mertz, seconded by John C. Lemke and carried.
- 2)Due to personal time constraints, our VP Nancy Horning has submitted her resignation. Thank you for your service. We are in need of a new consistory member. No volunteers for the position means the Vice-Presidency is open.
- 3)Review current Constitution for signing policy -A review showed the constitution requires President, Secretary, and Treasurer to be designated check signers. The Constitution does not specifically name the VP. A committee of Karen Kletti, Pastor Eric, and headed by John C. Lemke will look into possible revisions of the Constitution regarding this matter.
- 4) The Endowment Committee needs a Consistory Rep. Karen Kletti volunteered.
- 5) Memorial Committee motions approved by Consistory:
 - a)That grief cards, booklets, care & connection cards, and stamps to mail be considered an ongoing ministry of the church, and be funded through Memorial Funds, with an annual review by Consistory.
 - b)To add three additional members to the committee, bringing the total to 6, each serving a three year term with 1/3 of the committee's terms expiring each year.
- 6) Family Promise Update - Our church is scheduled for week of May 30. Currently, families shelter in place at a motel. Cost is \$420 per week per family. Options to consider are donations from members (online-specifically designated) or restaurant Gift Cards.

K. Committee Reports -

Trustees: Kitchen Project on temporary hold.

Care & Connection: Cards mailed to reach out to members.

Women @ Peace: Events are on hold

Faith Formation: Written report by Gayle Van Ess. CE Board meets Sunday, May 17.

Pastoral Relations: Met last Thursday. Will be doing electronic evaluation.

Worship: Met Monday, May 11, planning future virtual services.

L. Lord's Prayer

M. Adjournment: 8:37 p.m.