



*Peace United Church of Christ*

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# *The Tidings*



## *March 2021*

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

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Little could we have imagined how much our world could change for the course of a year. Just a year ago we were entering into Lent anticipating again that embarkation for a journey into deeper relationship with God. We remember how the church created this period of 40 days prior to Easter as a time of preparation for hearing and receiving that death-shattering good news. We remember how this time was structured to parallel Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness and all of those other 40-day (and year) periods in scripture when God's people would be challenged to grow into the people who God intended them to be. Could any of us a year ago have imagined how the mention of toilet-paper shortages would bring a knowing nod? Could any of us have imagined that we would be carrying the weight of over a half a million deaths from the pandemic in our country alone, in less than a year? It is easy to grow numb as we wander in the wilderness. Or could any of us have imagined that we would holding an Ash Wednesday drive-through ashes, communion, and chili supper? It continues to be quite a year!

I would like to think that, even during the exhaustion, this year has offered us lots of opportunities to deepen our faith journey. This season of Lent would be a good time to reflect on that perspective as a guide for how we might draw closer to God.

Often in Lent I have heard people talk about what they will “give up.” This is a response to that wilderness experience of Jesus when after forty days it says that he was famished. This has been translated by the church into such things as fast days and giving up flesh meat during Lent (for some this included even dairy and eggs). At some point in history, we see fish allowed — a practice that some connect back to a concern for the fishing economy, while others connect the fish back to it being a simple pauper's food. Of course, many of us now look to eating fish not as a hardship but a treat — the opposite of a fast. Always, the concern of fast days and dietary laws is to focus our attention and our prayer life on God and our faith. So, if fish-fry does that for you, go for it! But if not, then perhaps there are other ways to create reminders that reorient your life to God's ways. In a year in which so much has been taken away already, I would encourage the Lenten discipline of adding an expression of God's grace rather than subtracting one more thing. What small thing happens for you every day or every week that you could use as a reminder to practice the prayer discipline of generously sharing in God's grace. Perhaps it is stopping before you take your first sip of coffee to set aside an offering for charity, or a prayer for peace for the world, or love for your enemies? Is it a new discipline that when you do your laundry, you consider what emotions you are carrying that you need to let God's love flow over and wash away? Perhaps we need to choose what we could add to our daily discipline in this season that would nurture our souls.

Last year I shared a prayer from The Iona Community in Scotland that I read again this year with very different eyes:

*You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, want us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do. So, thank you...for the waiting time.*

*You keep us looking. You, the God of all space, want us to look in the right and wrong places for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless, for visions of a better world that will appear among the disappointments of the world we know. So, thank you...for the looking time.*

*You keep us loving. You, the God whose name is love, want us to be like you – to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unlovable; to love without jealousy or design or threat, and most difficult of all, to love ourselves. So, thank you...for the loving time.*

*And in all this you keep us, through hard questions with no easy answers; through failing where we hoped to succeed and making an impact when we felt useless; through the patience and the dreams and the love of others; and through Jesus Christ and his Spirit, you keep us.*

*So thank you... for the keeping time, and for now, and for ever. Amen*

We know that God journeys with us in love and invites us to be servants of that gift. May God bless us again with a hunger to live God's love and ways in this Lenten season,

*Pastor Eric*

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## *Worship Schedule for March 2021*

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We are now regathering at church with limits of 25% of capacity (50 worshippers in the sanctuary, worship leaders are in addition to that number). **With our increased capacity, we are discontinuing the sign-up for services – we'll see how that works.**

Service times are at: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

We are continuing to require masks that cover the mouth and nose at all times, social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, and all those other mitigation measures to which we have all become accustomed.

**We will continue streaming all worship services** 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.

We encourage everyone to please continue to act with care and caution. We have been trying to take all practical steps toward mitigation of the pandemic as a Congregation, and now is certainly not the time to stop trying to be a part of the solution. Get vaccinated when you are able, do your part in thinking about how your choices impact all of our community. Our commitment is to continue seeking to love our neighbors as ourselves!

The Church building is gradually reopening for adult classes and meeting in a hybrid fashion, but staff is still largely working remotely. Please don't hesitate to contact us and we will we try to meet any needs you may have.

**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.

- **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, and we are greatly limiting singing in church, at this time we will be recording the service in advance and then posting it online each week to be available for viewing at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We are planning to have reflections from this year's confirmation students included in each of these services.

Wednesday, March 3 – posting at 6:30 p.m. **ONLINE**  
Holden Evening Prayers with reflections by our Confirmands  
(see above for details)

Sunday, March 7 - 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church - COMMUNION**  
Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 ● Psalm 19 ● 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 ● John 2:13-22

Wednesday, March 10– posting at 6:30 p.m. **ONLINE**  
Holden Evening Prayers with reflections by our Confirmands  
(see above for details)

Sunday, March 14- 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 ● Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 ● Ephesians 2:1-10 ● John 3:14-21

Wednesday, March 17– posting at 6:30 p.m. **ONLINE**  
Holden Evening Prayers with reflections by our Confirmands  
(see above for details)

Sunday, March 21- 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 ● Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 ● Hebrews 5:5-10 ● John  
12:20-33

Wednesday, March 24 – posting at 6:30 p.m. **ONLINE**  
Holden Evening Prayers with reflections by our Confirmands  
(see above for details)

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

March 2 Madilynn Jacobs (9)  
March 4 Kiley May (18)  
Harper Relzlaff (5)  
Waylon Weinreich (2)  
Warren Weinreich (2)  
March 10 Landon Luther (7)  
March 13 Samuel Amerling (18)  
March 14 Mia Dornacker (13)  
March 18 Logan O'Brien-Flasch (4)  
March 22 Finley Martin (6)

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

March 2 Gloria Liepert (90)  
Judy Nonhof (84)  
March 11 F. Lyn Peterson (84)  
March 23 Dolores Terlinden (97)

### **Anniversaries**

March 3 John & Shelly Oswald (48)  
March 12 Sarah & Brian Van Beek (16)  
March 13 Ruth & Ken Henk (27)  
March 13 Jared & Melissa Polzin (17)  
March 26 Robbie & Cheri Manthei (10)  
March 29 Kathy & Fran Charland (41)

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## *Events and Activities*

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**American  
Red Cross**

Blood  
Services

**Peace Church will be having a blood drive on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**You can register for your appointment at this link:**

**<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>**

**or call 1-800-733-2767**

**If you are able to volunteer for a two hour shift please contact Kathy Charland at [charland22056@gmail.com](mailto:charland22056@gmail.com)**

**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 are continuing a study of the book of Ruth. Join in person in fellowship hall or connect by zoom:

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

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

The Peace Church book discussion group will be meeting March 3, 2021, to discuss "We Were the Lucky Ones" by Georgia Hunter. 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 "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).



## **Lay Caregivers' – Phone Call Ministry**

Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 AM

Volunteers who have been calling Peace Church members, and all who would enjoy joining this ministry are invited to gather in-person or via Zoom on Thursday, March 4, at 9:30 AM. Social distancing and masks will be required in Fellowship Hall, where we can spread out, and take advantage of air filters.

Volunteers in this ministry agree to call up to three members of the congregation once per month during a three-month period. Conversations are a way to stay in touch, offer God's love, and communicate with folks who may be feeling disconnected or depressed due to life circumstances or restrictions caused by the pandemic.

Everyone is encouraged to reach out to family, friends, neighbors, and other church members to brighten someone's day, and to live out our call to serve one another as Christ taught. This can be informal, or part of an organized ministry. If you would like a Zoom invitation to the March 4<sup>th</sup> gathering or have questions about the Lay Caregivers' Phone Call Ministry, please contact Gayle Van Ess 262-339-0304 or the Church Office 262-626-4011.

## **Sunday School/Confirmation Update**

Two days and 120 miles is all it took to deliver Friendship Sunday, Lenten, Holy Week and Easter materials to all of the students in Pre-K Sunday School through 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Classes. Fortunately, it was before the deep freeze hit Kewaskum!

Following the Board of Christian Education's decision to continue virtual instruction to children in Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, lessons were assembled and distributed, along with supplemental material and craft projects. A special surprise was even included for a delicious Friendship Sunday treat!

Grades 5-9 continue to meet via Zoom on a weekly basis with their teachers, discussing Bible truths and how to apply those teachings to today's issues.

A special Zoom gathering on March 21<sup>st</sup> for PreK through 4<sup>th</sup> Grades will feature a skit, and opportunity to "see" one another online.

The Board is hoping to offer Summer Sunday School in person, either at church or in the park gazebo.

Special thanks to Diane Stangl for a week of hard work, dedication, and support of this project!

Thanks to the congregation for your patience and understanding as we've made these difficult decisions and for your continued grace as we proceed.

- Board of Christian Education

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## *Giving Thanks*

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Dear Peace Church Family,

My deepest gratitude to all for the cards, phone calls & especially your prayers. My journey with cancer has been difficult but, your love & support has helped carry me over the really rough times. After 7 months of treatment, I am considered a complete responder & am so grateful. I will have to continue to be watched carefully, so your ongoing prayers are most appreciated.

Special thanks to Pastor Eric & Pastor Bob for their continued support.  
May God Bless all of you,

Dennis Novotny



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# *Financial Reports*

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## Financial Report January 2021

### **General Fund**

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$ (7,699)
Receipts	31,476
Cemetery Transfer	0
Internal Transfer	0
Incr/Decr from Investments	0
Expenses	(\$27,542)
Ending Balance as of 1/31/2021	<u>(\$3,766)</u>

### **Benevolence Receipts**

Peace Pantry	20.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	50.00
Full Shelf Food Pantry	96.80
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>166.80</u>

### Additional Information:

Project Balances as of 1/31/2021

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project	13,432.00
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## Peace UCC Consistory Meeting – January 12, 2021 Virtual Meeting via ZOOM and in-person

Members present: Paul Behring, Kathy Charland (Vice President), Karen Kletti, Tom Kolb, John A. Lemke (President), John C. Lemke, Becky Manthei, Roger Mertz (Secretary), Martha Wilson  
Also present: Pastor Eric, Cathy Stern (Treasurer)

- A. Call to Order: 6:38 p.m.
  - B. Opening Prayer - Pastor Eric began the meeting with a prayer.
  - C. Approval of Agenda – Two additions to Old Business, 3 additions to New Business. Motion to approve with changes.
  - D. Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2020 meeting: Motion to approve as amended by Kathy Charland second by Paul Behring and carried.
  - E. Financial Report – Treasurer Cathy Stern reported only a \$7,699 General Fund deficit at the end of the year. The consistory thanks the congregation for their financial support this past year. The annual end of year audit will be postponed until later because of COVID-19 concerns. Motion to accept financial report for December as presented and placed on file for audit by Karen Kletti, seconded by Martha Wilson and carried.
  - F. Pastor's Report – A written report was submitted by Pastor Eric. Pastor Eric presented the old, old story in a new, new way with two outdoor Christmas Eve services. Attendance at the regular Sunday services have been very low. Pastor Eric and staff continue to connect with members through phone calls, hospital visits (if possible), virtual and in-person meetings. Pastor Eric pointed out the need to train additional people to learn and undertake operating the video and sound equipment.
  - G. President's Report – Need Trustees to look at ceiling repair in the sanctuary.
  - H. Old Business
    1. Kitchen Remodel Committee is looking at kitchens in other churches to get ideas. The committee has contacted Heberer Bros. for advice about different aspects of the project.
    2. We still need two more trustees to fill open positions. Clark Pearson has graciously volunteered to be a deacon.
  - I. New Business –
    1. Family Promise – Currently all donations are sent directly to the Family Promise organization. Proposed and accepted a change to using the donations for hosting families when our turn comes. Any donations remaining will be forwarded to the Family Promise organization.
    2. A take-out Drive-Thru Chili Dinner will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Thank you to Thrivent and The Norbert for their donations. 10% of the proceeds will go to the Albrecht Free Clinic.
    3. Peace Church will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 12:30 – 6:00 p.m.
    4. Confirmation of 2021 Consistory officers: President – John A. Lemke, Vice-President – Kathy Charland, Secretary – Roger Mertz
  - J. Committee Reports -

**Christian Education:** A written report was submitted by Gayle Van Ess. Sunday School continues to offer virtual presentations. Grades K-4 will have printed materials delivered to families.
  - K. Lord's Prayer
  - L. Adjournment: 8:16 p.m.
- Next meeting is February 9, 2021



*“For we are co-workers in God’s service;  
you are God’s field, God’s building.”  
1 Corinthians 3:9*

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church’s Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. This year’s theme is **“Let Love Flow”**. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief and rehabilitation, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the lives of people in distress in our own communities, and at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in desperate need of our compassion and generosity. Gifts given through this special offering empower people in poverty to learn a trade, raise their own food, and grow in faith. United in Christ, we help to provide access to healthy food, good education, excellent health care, job training, schools, clean water, and shelter after devastating storms and disasters. Each time a gift is given, a connection is made that builds a bridge, letting people know we are here and we care. Each resource shared, answers God’s call to love our neighbor.

We are there providing well pumps for clean water, seeds and training for sustainable agriculture, and rice and oil to provide nourishment and cooking supplies. We are there through medical kits, school supplies, temporary shelters, and safe housing projects where needed most. We are there offering hope and helping to spread love, justice, and peace in the world.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul writes, “we are all co-workers in God’s service.” Some of us plant and some of us water, but God gives the growth. Through the ministries supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, we have the opportunity to be part of the hopeful future God is already bringing forth. Imagine what the future could be like when we join together across distance, culture and generations to invest in the growth God promises to bring.

**We will be dedicating our One Great Hour of Sharing offerings on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please use the “Other” line found on your weekly envelopes and write in One Great Hour of Sharing.**

In our generosity, we recognize that we are all part of God’s family. In sharing our gifts, we join together as both donors and recipients of generous investment in the growth God will bring. We celebrate the profound joy of living “for the love of what we may never see.” **Let us invest in futures by giving generously to One Great Hour of Sharing!**