



Peace United Church of Christ

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The Tidings

September

2023

THE TIDINGS – September 2023 – From the Pastor’s Study

A group of fourteen of us has just returned from a week of canoeing in the Canadian wilderness. I’m still basking in the wonder of God’s creation and the beauty of living and working with a community of terrific church-folk! Summers are a time of mission trips, VBS, and canoe trips. This summer we also saw another group who sought to offer meals to students and families who would be impacted by there not being school meals. We’ve enjoyed a summer worship schedule that brought people together in one worship space on Sunday mornings. On Wednesday evenings, Vikar Jakob led a more experimental gathering that encouraged people to worship and share in different ways. There have been so many things happening. Each of those events gather people and encourage us to see the world differently, to see ourselves differently, and to work in a way that more fully embodies the love of God.

As we move past Labor Day, we will reengage many of the familiar ministry rhythms. Worship will return to 8:00 and 9:30. We’ll resume Sunday school and Confirmation classes, and soon Adult Faith Formation classes. Our monthly community meals will return on September 6th. A new committee will be inspiring us toward greater stewardship, even as another group helps us to remember and celebrate the care and strength of those who have gone before us for 125 years making Peace UCC the place that it is. All these gatherings are rooted in opportunities to remember what it means to be the love of God in the world.

The canoe trip sometimes offers a chance to sit with a book in the glory and wonder of God's creation and do some reading. This year I was continuing the book “The Art of Possibility” by Rosamund and Benjamin Zander when I read an old folk story, perhaps a myth, that I’ve encountered as both “The Monks’ Story” and “The Rabbi’s Gift” that captures both what I was seeing in our group living in beloved community, as well as the call to what it means for us to be the church in ways that we already know so well.

A monastery had fallen on hard times. It was once part of a great order which, as a result of religious persecution lost all its branches. It was decimated to the extent that there were only five monks left in the mother house: the Abbot and four others, all of whom were over seventy. Clearly it was a dying order.

Deep in the woods surrounding the monastery was a little hut that the Rabbi from a nearby town occasionally used for a hermitage. One day, it occurred to the Abbot to visit the hermitage to see if the Rabbi could offer any advice that might save the monastery. The Rabbi welcomed the Abbot and commiserated. “I know how it is” he said, “the spirit has gone out of people. Almost no one comes to the synagogue anymore.” So the old Rabbi and the old Abbot wept together, and spoke quietly of deep things.

*The time came when the Abbot had to leave. They embraced. “It has been wonderful being with you,” said the Abbot, “but I have failed in my purpose for coming. Have you no piece of advice that might save the monastery?” “No, I am sorry,” the Rabbi responded, **“I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you.”***

When the other monks heard the Rabbi’s words, they wondered what possible significance they might have. “The Messiah is one of us? One of us, here, at the monastery? Do you suppose he meant the Abbot? Of course – it must be the Abbot, who has been our leader for so long. On the other hand, he might have meant Brother Thomas, who is undoubtably a holy man. Certainly he couldn’t have meant Brother Elrod – he’s so crotchety. But then Elrod is very wise. Surely, he could not have meant Brother Phillip – he’s too passive. But then, magically, he’s always there when you need him. Of course he didn’t mean me – yet supposing he did? Oh Lord, not me! I couldn’t mean that much to you, could I?”

As they contemplated in this manner, the old monks began to treat each other with extraordinary respect, on the off chance that one of them might be the Messiah. And on the off off chance that each monk himself might be the Messiah, they began to treat themselves with extraordinary respect.

Because the forest in which the monastery was situated was beautiful, people occasionally came to visit the monastery, to picnic or to wander along the old paths, most of which led to the dilapidated chapel. They sensed the aura of extraordinary respect that surrounded the five old monks, permeating the atmosphere. They began to come more frequently, bringing their friends, and their friends brought friends. Some of the younger men who came to visit began to engage in conversation with the monks. After a while, one asked if he might join. Then another, and another. Within a few years, the monastery became once again a thriving order, and – thanks to the Rabbi's gift – a vibrant community of light and love.

May we treat ourselves and each other with the light and love, the respect and inspiration, that has the power to transform us and the world. May God bless us with wonder!

Pastor ERIC

Worship Schedule for September 2023

Sunday, September 3 – 9:00 a.m. – Communion

Fourteenth 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

Sunday, September 10 – 9:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149 • Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40 • Romans 13:8-14 • Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 17 – 9:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 • Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 • Romans 14:1-12 • Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 24 – 9:00 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 • Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8 • Philippians 1:21-30 • Matthew 20:1-16

Events and Activities

The Peach Church Wednesday Morning Book Group will be reading the following books during the 2023 - 2024 year:

- Sep 6 The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards
- Oct 4 The Forest of Vanishing Stars by Kristin Harmel
- Nov 1 The Yellow Bird Sings by J. Rosner
- Dec 6 Women Talking by Miriam Toews
- Jan 3 Still Alice by Lisa Genova
- Feb 7 East of the Mountains by David Guterson
- Mar 6 Three Weeks With My Brother by Nicholas Sparks
- Apr 3 Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel by Bonnie Garmus
- May 1 The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson
- Jun 5 Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins Vallez

The first meeting for the season will be Wednesday, September 6, at 9:30 a.m. in the music room across from the church office. Everyone is invited to be a part of the group. For more information, please contact Lynn Rusch by e-mail, lynnrusch@yahoo.com or by phone, 262-306-4025.



Peace Church Fall Clean-Up Day – the Peace Church Trustees will be holding a Fall Clean-Up Day on Saturday, September 9th from 8 a.m. – noon. Sign-up now to help in one of many ways in beautifying our church – pruning shrubs, painting the gazebo, washing external windows, misc. outside clean-up of the church grounds. Call the office at 262-626-4011 to volunteer!

Thank you to my wonderful Peace Church family for singing Happy Birthday to me on Sunday, August 13th and for the birthday cards sent to me. I am blessed to be part of YOU!
~Betty Graff

Art Sales Fundraising – the year of our Art Sales Fundraising has ended. We raised a total of \$2070. Thank you to all who graciously volunteered as a vendor, and thanks to all who supported and purchased items.

Dear Peace Church, thank you for the Summer Camp scholarship. I had lots of fun. We did many different activities. I also made many new friends. Thanks again – Ava Polzin

Peace Church Banned Book Club will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. starting on January 18 with “To Kill A Mockingbird” by Harper Lee.

Future books are:

February 15 – “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison

March 15- “1984” by George Orwell

April 19 – “Nickel Boys” by Colson Whitehead

May 17-“The Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger

Othe books for future meetings include – “Maus” by Art Spiegelman,

“Gender Queer: A Memoir” by Maia Kobabe, “All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson.

Peace UCC Grief Group - Led by Vikar Jakob, will meet the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room. For more information, please contact the Peace Church office.



Prayer Shawl Group will meet on September 7th, the first Thursday of the month. We meet in the church library at 1 p.m. The group makes shawls for shut-ins and baptisms. We also make mittens for the Mitten Ministry. We welcome anyone interested in knitting and/or crocheting to join us. Please call Nancy Panzer (262-626-2817) if you want more information.

Sunday School Classes – start on Sunday, September 10th from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining, please just show up on the 10th! Kids will be divided into two broadly graded groups: 4K – 2nd grade and grade 3 – 5. 6th-8th graders will gather in the Youth Room each week for their pre-confirmation focus on the Old and New Testaments and Foundations of Faith.



Community Meal – The Peace Church Community Meal will start back up on Wednesday, September 6th from 4:30-6:00 p.m. with a cookout. The menu is chicken patties, hamburgers, brats, baked beans & chips. Desserts from congregation members! Please join us! All are welcome!

Church Choir - It's music time again! Choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 10th, following the 9:30 service. We will shoot for rehearsals being over by 11:30 at the very latest, and plan on singing two or three times a month.

Peace Church has a long and vibrant history of providing quality music for our worship services. The past couple of years have seen participation in many organizations drop, and unfortunately this has been true for our choirs. We have a solid core dedicated members and if we are going to continue this vital ministry, we need more singers.

Please keep in mind:

- The only requirement for being in the choir is to love singing and enjoy the camaraderie of praising God through song.
- While it would be great to have everyone at every rehearsal and Sunday that we sing, life happens. Be there when you can.

If you have any questions, please let me know at wmstangl@yahoo.com or 262-483-0699. We hope to see new faces and hear new voices this coming choir season.

Free Clothing Giveaway

Saturday, September 9th, 9 am – noon at the Clothes Closet at Salem UCC in Wayne. We are bursting at the seams and cleaning out our Clothes Closet to make room for new stock. We have like-new gently used Women's/Men's/Children's clothing, sizes infant to plus size adult. Come early for the best selection. Refreshments will be served. Located just north of Hwy H/Cty Rd W intersection in Wayne.

Rally Day! As students, teachers, and staff return to school, please join us for a blessing of



TEACHERS, STAFF, STUDENTS & BACKPACKS

Rally Day – First Day of Sunday School

PICNIC LUNCH for ALL!

Games & Fellowship

Bring a dish to share!

Sunday, September 10, 2023 - Following 9:30 Worship (Bring your backpack!)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! (Ages 1-18)

Sept 1 James Manthei
 Sept 10 Spencer Volm
 Sept 14 Knox Gitter
 Sept 18 Ellie O'Brien-Flasch
 Sept 23 Grace Loser

Birthdays (80 years plus)

Sept 4 Clark Pearson
 Sept 5 Janet Kuehn
 Sept 8 Lynn Rusch
 Sept 16 Loran Butzlaff
 Sept 22 Sandy Atwater

Happy Anniversary

Sept 1 Greg & Julaine Ogi (45)
 Sept 2 Heidi & Matthew Leithold (34), Greg & Valerie Vorpahl (23)
 Sept 4 Fred & Kathy Krieser (52)
 Sept 5 Tom & Michelle Ogi (13)
 Sept 11 Bill & Carol Butzlaff (58), Dennis & Cheryl Novotny (58)
 Sept 13 Marilyn & David McIntosh (65)
 Sept 21 Roger & Kathy Mertz (49)
 Sept 22 Bill & Lori Becker (17)

Financial Report

Financial Report July 2023

General Fund

Adjusted Beginning Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$ (58,313)
Receipts	20,179
Expenses	(\$24,177)
Ending Balance as of 6/30/2023	<u>(\$62,310)</u>

Benevolence Receipts

Peace Pantry	100.00
Kewaskum Food Pantry	10.00
Total Benevolence Receipts	<u>110.00</u>

Church Kitchen Remodeling Project	\$(37,584.67)
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Church Council Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2023 Peace United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting Minutes

Those in attendance: Kathy Charland, Mark Bocher, Clark Pearson, Becky Manthei, Lisa Atwater, Tim Stoffel, Paul Behring, Kathy Mertz, Vance Reif, Melissa Polzin, Pastor Eric, and Vikar Jakob.

Those absent: Chris Rode, Ken Singer, Brad Preder and Melinda Sargent.

Meeting opened at 6:04 pm with a prayer from Kathy C.

Motion made by Clark P with a second by Kathy M to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mark B with a second by Tim S to approve the May Consistory minutes. Motion carried.

The financial reports were reviewed. Looking for clarification from Cathy S. on the kitchen fund as it is showing an expense and last month it was decided that future expenses would come from either the building or general funds. We have been blessed with some generous donations towards the kitchen fund. Several cups will be taken down at the next service. Clark P made a motion to place the financial report on file for audit. 2nd motion from Kathy M. Motion carried.

Kathy C reported on some of the teachings from the UCC Conference meeting.

Motion by Clark P to decrease our OCWM giving for July thru Dec in half, which is \$1,400 per month and revisit again at the end of year. 2nd made by Paul B. Further discussion on what we learned from Rev Andrew was shared with the group. Several individuals reflected. Those voting yes – 2, no -7 and 2 abstain. Motion did not pass.

Talked about what makes someone a member of the church. If someone identifies as being a member, then we will consider them a member of the church. Ideally having someone who commits to being a member officially is the best situation. If someone is not a member, then they would not vote.

Air conditioning in the office has been replaced by Vance R.

Motion by Clark P to disperse Easter funds in 3 ways to Habitat Red Wing affiliate, UCC Disaster Relief-Ukraine, and the kitchen loan. Kathy C made a 2nd motion. Motion carried.

Bringing awareness that Robin will require benefits beginning Aug 2024. The personnel committee will need to review options.

Hoping to do further networking to expand our reach with the LGBTQ community. The Pride festival and parade were attended this past week with a group of 9 from our church.

Audio/visual compensation for the people when they are doing both the audio and visual components was discussed and we need to further review that compensation. The technology group will address.

There will be a brat fry at church on Sunday, July 23rd. Proceeds to benefit the canoe trip.

Talked about opening up Summer Sunday School to 4k thru 2nd grade and then the older kids would stay in church. Will review further with the CE committee.

The photo directory has accumulated 108 pictures so far. Still working toward getting more. Some people are going to submit digital photos, and some have decided not to participate.

Wednesday services have started and are evolving. Nice participation and sharing happening in Fellowship Hall.

Kathy spoke about some inspiring stewardship ideas that she learned at the UCC Conference meeting.

Kathy C adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Manthei



September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
		LECTIONARY 10 AM				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship 9:00 AM	Labor Day – Office Closed	LECTIONARY 10 AM	XYZ CLUB Book Club 9:30am Community Meal	Grief Group 1 pm		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 8 & 9:30 AM Rally Day - Sunday School Starts 9:30-10:30 AM		LECTIONARY 10 AM Church Council 6pm	XYZ CLUB Midweek Worship 7 pm		TIDINGS DEADLINE	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 8 & 9:30 am		LECTIONARY 10 AM	XYZ CLUB Midweek Worship 7 pm	Grief Group 1 pm		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 8 & 9:30 am		LECTIONARY 10 AM	XYZ Club Midweek Worship 7 pm			