



Peace United Church of Christ



Pastor:

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**Peace United Church
of Christ**

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Sunday:

Worship—10:15 AM

Pastor's Page

Passing on the Love

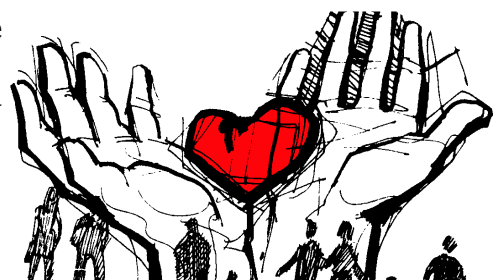
As many of you know, the new year brought me germs in the form of pneumonia. It was such a discouraging and distressing experience and the coughing rattled my lungs and made it hard to breathe. I'm not sure I had ever been quite this sick before. I found that it became hard to pray because I could mostly only focus on trying to keep the coughing away and the breathing steady. Most of my prayers were simply, "Please God, heal me." I was so appreciative of so many of you who brought soup, and bread, and pudding over. I was so thankful for your cards and your phone calls and your text messages. They reminded me that I had another life outside of my sick bed.

When I returned to work a few weeks later I found a stack of personal mail in my mailbox at the church. At first I wondered if these were get well cards that just hadn't been sent to my home, and then I realized that these were actually personalized letters and cards from names I didn't know. All of those cards, though, were from one church—Avalon Missionary Church here in Fort Wayne. It turns out that as part of their connecting with the community they choose a pastor each week in Fort Wayne and invite their congregation to send letters to that pastor's church—letters of prayer, and hope, and gratitude with the promise of prayer. I realize now that those letters were slowly accumulating while I was at my sickest. What a gift to know that even when I couldn't pray, others were praying for me?

Last week I sent an email to the pastor of Avalon Missionary Church to thank him for this idea and for their prayers. He said that he thinks it helps his congregation be more aware of the way in which all of our churches are connected here in the Fort Wayne area. So, bearing that in mind, I would invite you to consider writing your own letter of thanks to a church here in our community. Maybe it is a church near your home that you pass. Maybe it is a church that you have heard good things about. Maybe it is a church you would never attend but hope good things for. Maybe it is a different religion with a synagogue or mosque where you might want to reach out.

While we are all theologically diverse in this city of churches...the beauty of building connections rang true for me this past month. In that simple gesture I felt as if Peace UCC had also made new friends...and that the love of Christ was extended further.

Peace,
Pastor Christen





January Birthdays

Larry Hoyle	9
Kathy Salzmann	12
Dave Matson	21
Jon Vucich	21
John Roth	29
Shelli Vucich	31

February Birthdays

Rise Vandenburg	4
Joyce Dunkle	11
Joe Brooks	12
Bo Lockwood	12
Amy Miller	13
Jean Pfister	14
Paige Vucich	15
Bernie Miller	16
Allison Dikeolakos	18
Rick Hinton	23
Landon Blasius	24
Terry Longenberger	25
Millie Tompkins	27
Ken Dunn	28



Current Board Members:

Bekki Vail, President
 Brad Thomas, Treasurer
 Heather Hasch, Financial Secretary
 Chris Campbell, Recording Secretary
 Matthew Sagstetter, Facilities Chair
 Rise Vandenburg, Pastoral Relations Rep.
 Christina Ryan Perkins, Mission Chair
 Lorie Krouse, Education Committee Chair
 Angela Miller, Congregational Life



Feb. 7 Board Agenda items to Chris
 Feb. 18 Church Board Meeting 11:30
 Feb. 26 Deadline to get board report info to Janet

March 17 will be our congregational meeting immediately following the church service. We voted in worship on Sunday, Jan. 21 to delay it from our usual February meeting. Annual meeting Board Reports will be available in the building starting March 3 so you will have a chance to look over the items before the meeting. We hope to see you all there!

Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, February 14th. As we have done in previous years, we will have the sanctuary open and available for you to come by at your convenience for a time apart for prayer, meditation, and to receive the mark of the cross. There will be no formal worship service on Ash Wednesday. The sanctuary will be open at three separate times during the day. First, in the morning between **8:45—10:45** (be aware that there is car line for the nursery school at 9:00) and then from **noon—2:30 p.m.** and then again from **5:00—7:30 p.m.** in the evening. All are welcome to come and receive the sign of Christ as we begin our Lenten journey at Peace Church.

Growing Hope Globally News January/February

Our partnership with Pleasant Chapel and Plymouth Congregational allowed us to fund two programs with a check for \$19,721.20! This is after expenses of \$2900.00! We are funding Honduras Macuelizo and Burkina Faso Gnagha again this year. We have been involved with Growing Hope Globally (Foods Resource Bank) since 2007 and have sent \$279,488.66 to 17 projects throughout the world. We thank God for our farmers, committees, congregations, seed corn companies, Carper Supply, and so much support and guidance from Rachel at Growing Hope Globally.

Please consider joining our GHG committee for 2024! Contact Beth Ring for more information.



Mission House Food Bank

This month and up to the Super Bowl we are asking for soup; cans, boxes and bags! Let's see how much soup can be taken to the Mission House in February!!

Our cupboard needs more soup! Let's fill our Narthex cupboard with all kinds of soup by Souper Bowl Sunday, February 11th! The soup will be delivered the week of February 12th. Thank you for your donations throughout the year!

Welcome Table is a partnership between United Faith Presbyterian Church, Peace UCC, and North Christian Church. We would like to invite you to dine or volunteer for our no-cost, pop-up restaurant. It's a pop-up community restaurant. For everyone!

If you would like to volunteer for Welcome Table, please email Pastor Kate Howard at revpenney@gmail.com.

Upcoming Welcome Table dates are **February 12 & 26**.
We are open from 5:30-6:45 pm at 1616 W. Main St.



We keep the following friends in our prayers:

We hold in prayer **Matthew Coppola** at the death of his grandmother in Tennessee. We also remember in prayer **Christina, Fable, and Simeon** as they grieve. Please keep **Kate Penney Howard** in your continued prayers.

Keep our congregation in prayer as we search for a new organist, and please spread the word that we are looking!



TEAM Peace Sunday School

We are learning about God's Covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Miss Lorie and Miss Bekki will be out of town for some of these dates. We will need parents to volunteer to help lead Sunday School. We will both be gone on February 4 and 11.

Please also consider being a part of the Education Committee. See Miss Lorie for more details.

Date	Our Activities
Sunday, January 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the story of Abraham and Sarah • Story Board • Sing "Father Abraham"
Sunday, January 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more about Abraham and Sarah • Star Craft • Sing "Father Abraham"
Sunday, January 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abe and the Amazing Promise • Sing "Father Abraham"
Sunday, February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Abe and the Amazing Promise • Sing "Father Abraham" • Coloring Book
Sunday, February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mardi Gras Bingo and Pancake Race
Sunday, February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, & Esau • Video & Story Board • Make Soup • Sing "Father Abraham"
Sunday, February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, & Esau • Esau forgives • Sing "Father Abraham" during worship

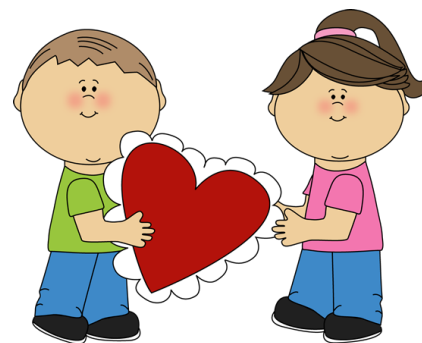
Stay tuned for more information coming up for March!

If you have questions or would like to get involved, please email Lorie Krouse at mkrouse@comcast.net or call/text at (260) 494-2433.

We Received a Thoughtful Card from Dennis Bowman:

"Thank you for a wonderful 17 years of allowing me to make music for your church services. I have made many wonderful friends and I will cherish the memories forever!"


Dennis



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February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 PM Table Tennis	2	3
4 10:15 AM Worship	5	6	7	8 6:30 PM Table Tennis	9	10
11 10:15 AM Worship	12 WELCOME TABLE	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 	15 6:30 PM Table Tennis 7:30 PM Choir	16	17
18 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM BOARD MEETING	19	20	21	22 6:30 PM Table Tennis 7:30 PM Choir	23	24
25 10:15 AM Worship	26 WELCOME TABLE Newsletter Deadline	27	28	29 6:30 PM Table Tennis 7:30 PM Choir		