



# Peace United Church of Christ

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**Peace United Church  
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**Sunday:**

Worship—10:15 AM

## Pastor's Page

This was a sermon I preached on Sunday March 3, and earlier this week a few people asked if I might give them a copy, so I edited it to make it into our Pastor's Page for the month. May we remember that there are angels around, and kindnesses just on the edge of the horizon.

Grayson and I were traveling a week ago now to California to look at colleges that he might want to attend. We were on our way home, on that lag of the trip where the time change works against you and you end up leaving your California destination at 7:30 a.m. and arriving home to Indiana at 11:00 p.m. And we were tired and ready to see Robert. And I was grouchy because Long Haul Covid and travel don't blend well together very often. We arrived early at Gate B21 at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport with two hours to spare before our flight home to Fort Wayne. And we settled in with our Subway sandwiches and made ourselves as comfortable as we could in those weird airport chairs that have a really odd angle for short people. Little by little more and more travelers made their way to our gate (you know how you can often tell that people are going to Fort Wayne? The women have Vera Bradley bags. Yes, I was carrying one too.) Grayson and I took turns standing up and walking around the airport to stretch while one of us would stay with our bags and after my second walk there were two new people seated directly behind us. One was a woman in maybe her 50s, an other in her 20s. And as soon as I sat down Grayson handed me his phone where he had written me a note that said, "I think the woman behind us is drunk and that the woman next to her might need help in taking care of her." And just as I read his message I could smell the fumes of alcohol that the woman behind us was emanating.

I stood up as if I were stretching or looking out the window of the airport and saw a very shaky woman trying to find some pills in her bag, tears running down her face while the 20ish year old woman sat quietly next to her, her hand on her shoulder. And then the older woman began to speak and she sobbed as she spoke, thanking the younger woman, who was apparently a stranger to her for helping her not feel so alone. More and more people were gathering around our gate as the boarding time was getting closer and the woman who was intoxicated began to cry louder and then saw me and asked if I was on this flight. I told her I was and she began to tell me her story as she cried. She was on her way to Detox and Rehab at a private facility in Fort Wayne. She was from Salt Lake City and her husband had put her on the plane and told her not to drink any alcohol at the bar, but she got scared and she had had "just a pull, just a little pull." And now she wasn't sure if she could make it. She was embarrassed and she wasn't sure she would be accepted by the Rehab center and she didn't want to call her husband and she was afraid to fly and soon she was clinging to my hand as well as the woman's hand next to me. She told me her name was Marla and that she wanted to get well because her grandmother had a 99<sup>th</sup> birthday coming up and she wanted to finally make her proud. But all the while Marla was very loud and when she would stand she would stagger. My first thought was, "they are never going to let her fly." And my second thought was, "but she can't stay here alone at the airport where there are bars and she has credit cards."

*[continued on next page]*

Meanwhile, the woman in her 20s sat quietly at her side, first helping her get up to go to the bathroom, then helping her find her airline ticket when she thought she lost it. At one point as Marla sat with her head on this young woman's lap sobbing the woman cradled her like a baby and soothed her hair behind her ears whispering, "It's going to be okay somehow..." I learned that this woman in her 20s had been on Marla's first flight and had walked with her to the next gate, and that now this young woman who was traveling to Beaumont, Texas had had her flight delayed until late at night and so she was determined to get Marla on her plane. The young woman and I spoke softly so Marla couldn't hear about how worried we were that she would not be allowed on. We tried to see if she would drink some coffee, and we kept giving her our water bottles.

Around us people began to stare and mutter as Marla mumbled or slurred or sometimes spoke too loudly. Some folks would shake their heads and look away. But through the crowd came a man hired to take people to gate in wheelchairs and he sat on the floor in front of Marla and told her about his first step in getting sober and she stopped crying and listened. And then he went over and spoke to the airline attendant and I watched the look on her face, and it wasn't a look of anger, it was one of compassion and of grace. Grayson and I had to board the plane and I hugged Marla goodbye and gave a peace sign to the compassionate servant who was caring for her and when Grayson and I sat down we squinted to watch the front of the plane to see if she made it on, whether they let her fly. And when we saw her board, we also saw three flight attendants surround her arguing and one made her way to the back and said to the other, "She may be drunk but she's also scared and she's on her way to Rehab and we can't leave her behind."

The flight was a rocky one and I was worried about Marla. I kept watching the front of the plane, hoping she was okay, hoping she had a friend to talk to, hoping she was not feeling alone. And then I marveled at the compassion I had seen. I marveled because there is human kindness and there is love, and there is goodness in this world and I had witnessed it. And that young woman who had helped Marla had been wearing a small gold cross around her neck, living out her faith bravely and kindly and with no fear of getting entangled, or vomited on, or left responsible for Marla.

As soon as we landed, Grayson and I tried to get off the plane as quickly as we could (and not just to get the free cookies or even to hug Robert) but to look for Marla and to make sure she was okay. She was a little worse for the wear, and a little more sober, and she had found the person who was going to drive her to the Detox and Rehab facility. And she hugged me long and hard and said, "pray for me, pray for me, pray for me."

And so my beloveds, today may we pray for the Marlas. And may we pray for the good Samaritans. Because what we witnessed at Gate B21 of the DFW airport was a little bit of a miracle. What happened at Gate B21 of the DFW airport was what we mean when we talk about building the community of Jesus here on earth. And the encounters that occurred at Gate B21 of the DFW airport was nothing less than holy.

Thanks be to God who opens their arms to all.

Pastor Christen





## March Birthdays

Ed Salzman	8
Vivian Blundall	9
Matt Blundall	12
Marilyn Nussbaum	13
Karly Gotschall	14
Lowynn Michelson	14
Emily Pasquali	16
Dennis Bowman	19
Becky Dexheimer	21
Kati Vail	21
Clara Blundall	22
Bill Hogg	24
Mary Riecke	26
Kate Kiepp	26
Heather Hasch	27
Grayson Pettit	28
Paco Michelson	30
Emily Salzman	31

## Current Board Members:

Bekki Vail, President

Brad Thomas, Treasurer

Heather Hasch, Financial Secretary

Chris Campbell, Recording Secretary

Rise Vandenburg, Pastoral Relations Rep.

Matthew Sagstetter, Facilities Chair

Lorie Krouse, Education Committee Chair

Christina Ryan Perkins, Mission Chair

Angela Miller, Congregational Life



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## We keep the following friends in our prayers:

We hold in prayer the family of Sloan Mattingly at her tragic death in Florida. Sloan was a previous CNS student and will be lovingly remembered by her parents and her older brother and so many others who loved and cared for her. We pray for our staff at CNS, especially those who had Sloan in classes, as they grieve their own private losses and remember her as their student.

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 Joseph and his coat of many colors.

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

Date	Our Activities
Sunday, March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</li> <li>• Sing “Any Dream Will Do”</li> <li>• Joseph Coat Bookmark</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</li> <li>• Joseph Edible Craft</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 24 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm Sunday Story</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 31 <b>Easter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easter Egg Hunt immediately following worship</li> </ul>
Sunday, April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurrection Story &amp; Make Empty Tomb Rolls</li> </ul>
Sunday, April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</li> <li>• Sing “Any Dream Will Do”</li> </ul>
Sunday, April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Tye Dye T-Shirts</li> <li>• Sing “Any Dream Will Do”</li> </ul>
Sunday, April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sing “Any Dream Will Do”</li> <li>• Make mini-me for bulletin board</li> <li>• Mother’s Day Craft</li> </ul>
Sunday, May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mother’s Day Craft</li> </ul>
Sunday, May 12 <b>Mother’s Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sing “Any Dream Will Do” during worship</li> <li>• Joseph Party</li> </ul>



**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!

We are open from 5:30-6:45 pm at 1616 W. Main St.

As we transition into doing Welcome Table on our own, we find that we need some more volunteers (especially in these winter months when our regulars are traveling or are sick). Volunteering is simply showing up any time between 4 and 5 (and we'll take you if you coast in between 5 and 5:35). If we know you are coming ahead of time, (pastor Kate will have peace of mind), and we will get a name badge ready for you so you are official, but you'll get to wear a Welcome Table apron no matter what.

You can "work" in whatever department you like. It's fun.

Upcoming dates are:

Mar 11

Mar 25

Apr 15

Apr 29

May 6

May 20

Jun 10

Jun 24



Thank you!

Pastor Kate, Senior Pastor

North Christian Church

Fort Wayne, IN

260-443-1093 (Cell)

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Don't forget to plan on attending the annual meeting on Sunday March 17 immediately following the worship service. If you haven't yet, stop by the church office to pick up a copy of the 2023 Annual Report to review prior to the meeting.



On Thursday night of Holy Week we will gather in our sanctuary at 7:00 pm for a Tenebrae and Communion service as we remember the last night that he shared with his disciples. All are welcome to join us for this somber evening.

# Peace United Church of Christ

## March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:30 AM Peace Crafters
3 10:15 AM Worship	4	5	6 7:00 PM Confirmation Plymouth UCC	7 6:30 PM Table Tennis  7:30 PM Choir	8	9
10 <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</b> 10:15 AM Worship	11 <b>WELCOME TABLE</b>	12	13 7:00 PM Confirmation Plymouth UCC	14 6:30 PM Table Tennis  7:30 PM Choir	15	16
17 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b> 	18	19 6:30 PM <b>Michael Spath lecture on Palestine Genocide</b>	20 7:00 PM Confirmation Plymouth UCC	21 6:30 PM Table Tennis  7:30 PM Choir	22	23
24 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 10:15 AM Worship	25 <b>WELCOME TABLE</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	26	27 6:30 PM Table Tennis	28 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>  7:00 PM <b>Tenebrae Service</b>	29 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	30
31 <b>EASTER</b> 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>						