

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1503 2ND AVE NE
ROCHESTER, MN 55906

OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

FAITH FORMATION
UPDATES
CALENDAR OF EVENTS /
FEATURED EVENTS
FINANCIAL UPDATE /
BIRTHDAYS

March
2022

PEACE
CHURCH



www.peacechurchucc.org

(507) 282-6117



Romans 8:22-25 MSG

"All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's *within* us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy."

Hope is growing...it **HAS** been growing. We have taken our pregnant pause. And now it's time to regenerate – to **GROW**. The root word for Lent means spring; and spring for us, and all living things, is a time for growth. As we journey through Lent, we will be spending time discussing and sharing stores from the amazing book "Wild Hope—Stories for Lent from the Vanishing" by Gayle Boss. We'll kick off our Lenten journey on March 2 with Ash Wednesday, through Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary at 7p. Then on Sunday, March 6 we will 'rise & renew' with our faith formation program for ALL ages. Together we will be creating our own Peace Church ark to symbolize how we have been brought out of this COVID flood and how we are being called to take care of our planet and everything on it.

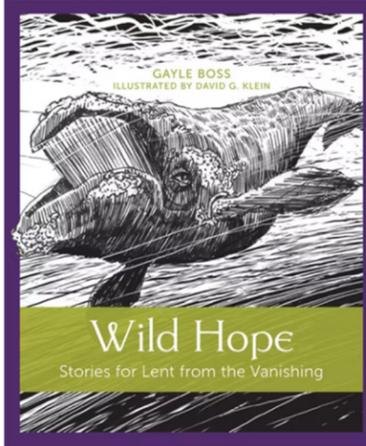
Looking forward to our journey together!

Debby

Faith Formation Restart—Sunday, March 6
Children ~ Teens ~ Adults
10:15a ~ Everyone gather in the Fellowship Hall



Faith Formation Restart — Sunday, March 6 @ 10:15a



We are excited to come back with a shortened schedule for our journey through Lent. We have a special faith formation program planned for all (children—adults) which will focus on environmental and climate issues. We'll be using the book, *Wild Hope—Stories for Lent from the Vanishing* (by Gayle Boss) as our base.

As the author points out, the root word for Lent means Spring; and spring for us, and all living things, is a time to grow. As we take our journey, this book will share the miracle and peril facing many endangered species in our world—"to alert us to the precarious and pregnant moment we are in. The purpose of Lent has always been to startle us awake to the true state of our hearts and the world we've made. Which wakes an aching, wild hope that something new might be born of the ruin."

Each Sunday we'll focus on a theme and four animals. Because we will have several teachers/shepherds who will be gone the first two weeks in March, we will spend the first two Sundays in March all gathering together in the Fellowship Hall to introduce our journey, then break out into our groups at different tables (PreK-K, Grades 1—3, Grades 4 & 5, Teens, Adults). We will create our own ark — like Noah — to show our love, concern, and safety for these amazing creatures and the beautiful planet that we call home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Debby

Looking forward to celebrating our **Comm(UNITY)** through our love of Creation



In 1919, the Brotherhood of the Evangelical Church of Peace (now Peace United Church of Christ) worked together to build a convalescent home in Rochester to provide proper care and Christian service at a reasonable rate to pre-and post-operative patients who had to remain in the city for some time. After purchasing land in September of 1920 and finally dedicating the finished building on March 5, 1922, we couldn't be more proud of how Samaritan Bethany has grown and what it has become.



Samaritan Bethany

Come help us Celebrate 100 Years

APRIL | 7 | 2022

5:15pm Reception

6:30pm Dinner

7:30pm Divas of the Decades

Mayo Civic Center, Rochester MN

\$100 per person

Register online at www.samaritanbethany.com
or contact Rita at rhawkins@samaritanbethany.com

FEATURED EVENTS

Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 7p — We will celebrate Ash Wednesday and our journey into Lent with a worship service including Holy Communion and the imposition of Ashes.

Enormous Africa

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 7p (ZOOM) — Many people think Africa is one small country somewhere. Actually, Africa is the second largest continent in the world. In this study group, we will have the opportunity to learn about and utilize the incredible diversity and rich culture of the continent. We will also come to know more about some of its breathtaking landscapes, natural resources that benefit the whole world, and Traditional Africa Religion that many indigenous people adhere to. We meet the first Thursday of every month and have fun expanding our understanding not only about rich and remarkable Africa values, but also to see the wonders of what God is doing in Africa. Please try and watch this video before the meeting: Kongo and the Scramble for Africa—History of Africa with Zeinab Badawi [Episode 19] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0v_SwObQns Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83335128857?pwd=bUxhbUUwTmFmNHArV2JMUkptNWRPUT09> Questions? Contact Jerry Locula (jlocula@gmail.com)

6-Week Rehearsal Easter Choir

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 6:30p — We had so much fun with our Christmas Choir that we are ready to do the same for Easter! Our Music Director, Dylon Starr, is bringing together voices to enhance our Easter service (April 17). We will gather for only 6 weeks every Monday (beginning March 7) from 6:30—8p. We encourage you to sign up here (<https://signup.com/go/NHqfVQW>) so that we can include you in our information mailings. Questions? Contact Dylon Starr (dylon.starr@gmail.com)

Race Forward

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 7p (ZOOM) — The term race is contentious and can either turn you off or turn your head. But how do you being a conversation about race? This group is currently reading: "Speaking of Race" by Celeste Headlee. We would love to include more people to talk about this important topic. We are meeting every other Tuesday @ 7p via ZOOM. Questions? Contact Ruth Larson (rularoch@hotmail.com).

Once & Future Classics Auditions

MONDAY & TUESDAY, MARCH 14 & 15, 6:30p — Then Romeo said, "I am not quite dead yet." Once and Future Classics is excited to present A Musical—Romeo and Juliet in May. Auditions for this show will take place on March 14 & 15. Please bring a song to sing. Questions? Contact: Aaron Rocklyn (aaronlance@hotmail.com)

Guest Speaker—Erika Stalnaker

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 10a — Erika Stalnaker, DNP, APRN, CNP will facilitate a discussion about starting the journey for Peace Church to become a more trauma-informed church. This talk will build on the previous topic of trauma, PTSD and complex-PTSD as shared by Dr Sky Smith on February 13. Also discussed will be the potential benefits of being a trauma-informed church, and through group discussions, we will identify pathways and opportunities for making changes. Questions? Contact Jerry Locula (jlocula@gmail.com).



Card Sharks

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 6:30p — Come and spend time playing cards and games with others. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month gathering at the tables in the Narthex at 6:30p. Questions? Contact Lynn Alcock (lynnalcock6123@gmail.com).

CALENDAR

March Events

WEDNESDAY 2: Ash Wednesday Service, 7p

THURSDAY 3: Enormous Africa, 7p (ZOOM)

SATURDAY 5: Peace Quilters, 10a (Rm 104); Combined Teen Event (Peace UCC + Christway), 4p

SUNDAY 6: Contemporary Worship w/Communion, 9a; Faith Formation for All, 10a (F-Hall); Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p

SUNDAY 13: Traditional Worship, 9a; Faith Formation for All, 10a (F-Hall); ONEVOICE Rehearsal, 10a—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS; spring ahead 1 hour

MONDAY 14: Once & Future Classics Play Auditions, 6:30p (F-Hall)

TUESDAY 15: Once & Future Classics Play Auditions, 6:30 (F-Hall)

THURSDAY 17: Card Sharks, 6:30p (Narthex)

SUNDAY 20: Special Worship, 9a; Adult Guest Speaker, Erika Stalnaker, 10a (F-Hall); Faith Formation, 10a; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p

SUNDAY 27: Traditional Worship (Hand Bells Playing), 9a; Faith Formation for All, 10a; ONEVOICE Rehearsal, 10a; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p

6-WEEK HAND BELL REHEARSAL
Every Monday*, 5p (Rm 115)
through March 21

6-WEEK EASTER CHOIR REHEARSAL
Every Monday, 6:30p (Rm 115)

MEN OF PEACE
Every Tuesday, 7a (Peace Room & ZOOM)

BEVERAGE AND BIBLE
Every Tuesday, 5p (Glynnner's Pub)

RACE FORWARD
Every Other Tuesday, 7p (ZOOM; Mar 8, 22)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Every Thursday, 8a (ZOOM)



Images

L/R: Lynn Alcock doing an amazing job filling in at the last minute while our staff recovers from COVID on Feb 13.

Bottom L: Our music team leads the congregation in song.

Bottom R: Ruth Larson sharing a special message in honor of Black History Month.

Pastor Paul and Debby want to thank our Peace Family village for stepping in to make our worship happen when they couldn't be here. You are all AMAZING!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

As you can see, our January pledges came in **-\$10,210** below budget, but we were actually \$2,461 ahead of last year. Our total income is **-\$11,625** below budget, but ahead of last year.

We have a history of our pledge giving starting out slow. I feel that some of the low giving for January was due to us not being able to meet in person the last two Sundays due to COVID. Hopefully we can see an upswing in giving as we begin to gather in person again.

Overall expenses are within budget. However, as you are seeing in your own homes, our actual expense against our budget for Natural Gas is higher. expense is control for the year is down \$38,985 from budget.

I am hopeful that we can get back on track with our pledged gifts for February. Please contact Tom DeYoung, Financial Liaison, if you have any questions.

	JAN 2022	YEAR-TO-DATE	JAN 2021
Pledges budgeted	\$35,167	\$35,167	\$35,167
Pledges received	\$24,957	\$24,957	\$22,496
Difference	-\$10,210	-\$10,210	-\$12,671



Images Top: Dr Sky Smith addresses attendees in Part 1 of our Trauma-Informed Church series. Be sure to attend the presentation on March 20 @ 10a for Part 2.

March Birthdays

We celebrate with those in our church family who have birthdays in March.

- 01 David Schmitt
- 02 Muriel Hawley, Eileen Schroeder
- 03 Chad Ramaker
- 05 Bryan Howard
- 06 Semini McLaurin
- 07 Deb Franks
- 08 Al Bushman, Matthew Melmer
- 10 Kirby Bakken
- 11 David Allen, Levi Barker
- 12 Anna Haug, Lainey LeQuire
- 13 Benjamin Winters
- 14 Linda Arns
- 15 Rae Dunn, Deb Guenther, Eryn Wortman
- 16 Robert Clark, Tom Otten
- 17 Annaliesa Diekvoss, Sara Schliep
- 18 Michelle Johnson
- 19 Becky Maloney, Bruce Schliep
- 20 Pamela Haase
- 21 Warren Bjork, Nancy Manley
- 22 Anne Reick
- 25 Barb Davis-Fritz
- 26 Spencer Pfeifer
- 27 Joan Leaf, Sue Tointon, Ed Wagner
- 28 Stacy Goodwin, Dee Servick
- 29 Sondra Bentz
- 31 Sheila Franck



Photos courtesy of Jody Morbeck