

# OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
FEATURED EVENTS  
ROCHESTER PRIDE  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
MINISTRY TEAMS  
FINANCIAL UPDATE  
BIRTHDAYS

## May 2023

### OPEN, All Church and Ribbon Cutting Recap:

What a celebration we had...

Were you able to attend the all-church dinner in April? It was a grand event with cloth tablecloths, balloons, dinner, cake, and lots of fellowship. Around 120 of our members came together to recognize our re-opening after Covid followed by a long year of rebuilding from the fire. The tables were filled, and a loud hum of conversation filled the room. During dinner we recognized Rob Stevens (Peace Church member and lead painter on the project), Forrest Himebaugh (Foreman, Knutson Construction), Kate Ruitter (Design/Architect Assistant, Widseth Architecture), and Dana Hlebichuk (Principal Architect, Widseth Architecture) for their extraordinary work to keep us on our timeline despite several setbacks related to supply chain, permits, etc. Jeremy Schrimpf (Project Manager, Knutson Construction) was unable to attend the dinner, but has been an amazing point person throughout the project.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was after dinner and included Pastor Paul saying a few things to honor all the work that went into getting us to where we are now. It wrapped up with a blessing by Jerry ending in "AMEN WOO HOO!" Then we had the snip, snip of the red ribbon by Dawn Stevens (Council President) with gold-handled scissors.

Back to our tables in the fellowship hall to start the program. We discussed the vision team and the goals they were tasked with by Pastor Paul. The vision team searched for and interviewed a consulting firm and a consultant to potentially help us meet these goals. With council approval, we excitedly announced that we selected a consultant to walk alongside us during this next year. (The consultant is introduced later in the newsletter... keep reading.)

In preparation for the year ahead, we wanted to jump-start our efforts by enhancing our ministry teams. Each team was introduced along with the council rep (superhero) aligned with each team. The teams enjoyed a building tour and met as a small group to determine summer initiatives to direct their focus. We are all so lucky to be a part of this OPEN, brand new, beautiful, exciting, growing church! -Lynn Alcock, Former Council President



# CALENDAR

## May Events

**MONDAY 1:** Social Action/ Missions 6p, Narthex

**TUESDAY 2:** Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p

**WEDNESDAY 3:** Peace Knitters, 10a, Narthex; Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall

**THURSDAY 4:** Women's Fellowship, 8a, Peace Room

**FRIDAY 5:** Once and Future Classic Performance Beauty and the Beast 7:30p, F-Hall

**SATURDAY 6:** Once and Future Classic Performance Beauty and the Beast 7:30p, F-Hall

**SUNDAY 7:** Communion Sunday 10a; Faith Formation 11:15a, F-Hall; Adult & Teen Mission Trip Meeting, 11:15a, Dwelling; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

**MONDAY 8:** Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom

**TUESDAY 9:** Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p; Race Forward 6:30, Zoom

**WEDNESDAY 10:** Peace Knitters, 10a, Narthex; Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall;

**THURSDAY 11:** Women's Fellowship, 8a, Narthex

**FRIDAY 12:** Once and Future Classic Performance Beauty and the Beast 7:30p, F-Hall

**SATURDAY 13:** Confirmation Retreat 9a, Peace Room; Once and Future Classic Performance Beauty and the Beast 7:30p, F-Hall

**SUNDAY 14:** Contemporary Service 10a; Faith Formation 11:15a, F-Hall; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

**TUESDAY 16:** Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p

**WEDNESDAY 17:** Peace Knitters, 10a, Narthex; Community Meal Night 5:15p F-Hall; Church Council 7p, Peace Rm

**THURSDAY 18:** Women's Fellowship, 8a, Peace Room; Card Sharks 6:30p, Narthex

**FRIDAY 19:** Once and Future Classic Performance Beauty and the Beast 7:30p, F-Hall

**SATURDAY 20:** Rochester Pride 12p, Soldier's Field; Once and Future Classic Performance Beauty and the Beast 7:30p, F-Hall

**SUNDAY 21:** Traditional Service 10a; Faith Formation 11:15a, F-Hall; Guest Speaker for Mental Health Sunday 11:15a, Sanctuary; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; Once and Future Classic Performance Beauty and the Beast 2p, F-Hall; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

**TUESDAY 23:** Men's Fellowship 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p; Race Forward 6:30p, Zoom

**WEDNESDAY 24:** Peace Knitters, 10a, Narthex; Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall

**THURSDAY 25:** Women's Fellowship, 8a, Narthex

**SATURDAY 27:** Roeber Wedding 11a, Sanctuary; Roeber Reception 12p, F-Hall

**SUNDAY 28:** Traditional Worship, 10a; Faith Formation, 11:15a, F-Hall; Christway Full Gospel, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

**TUESDAY 30:** Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p

**WEDNESDAY 31:** Peace Knitters, 10a, Narthex; Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall

## LOOKING AHEAD

### JUNE

4: Teen Carwash Fundraiser 9:30a

10: Teen Movie Night

19: Teens Depart for Mission Trip from Peace Church @ 12:15p

19-26: Teen Mission Trip

20-22: Peace UCC Office Closed

25: UCC Open and Affirming Sunday

26: Teens Return from Mission Trip to Peace Church @ 9:45p

# FEATURED EVENTS

## Mother's Day Cards for Samaritan Bethany

Please consider sending Mothers Day cards to Samaritan Bethany!  
Send them in the mail by Wednesday May 10th or drop them at Peace by Thursday, May 11th.

If mailing, please send to:  
Samaritan Bethany  
Attn: Rita Hawkins  
24 8th St NW, Rochester, MN 55901

## Highway Clean Up

SUNDAY, MAY 7: 3p People of all ages are needed to clean up our stretch of adopted highway. Bring your children, your grandchildren, friends, neighbors and community groups. Together, we will make our environment a little bit cleaner. Suggestion to wear gloves and closed-toe shoes; bags and vests will be provided. Meet in the Schott Distributing on Hwy 14E at 3:00p Sign up here: [bit.ly/3V5dbkc](https://bit.ly/3V5dbkc)

## Strengthening The Church Offering

SUNDAY, MAY 7: The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.  
Raindate: 5/21

## Enormous Africa

MONDAY MAY 8th at 7p: Hi everyone! May is around the corner. That means, our last session for Spring and unity dinner is around the corner. As agreed, our last session is on 8 May from 7:00-8:30pm. We will watch the movie (BBC film), "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind." It is on Netflix and is 1hr, 53 minutes. Following our sharing on the movie, we will discuss the future of "Enormous Africa" for the coming Fall.

The zoom link to our May 8th meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82773627208?pwd=ZE4waTFRMTNBmZ5aW4za3hmTjRLZz09>



**Image :**  
Everyone enjoying the Easter breakfast

## All Ages Movie Night- The Amazing Maurice

FRIDAY, MAY 19 , 5:30p —Bring your favorite pillow and blanket and join us as we watch "The Amazing Maurice". Cost is \$5/family for pizza and pop. Please sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/RqBkTAe>

Questions? Contact Stacy Beyer-Groth ([sdbeyergroth99@gmail.com](mailto:sdbeyergroth99@gmail.com)).

## Guest Speaker : Mental Health Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 21 11:15a- A Staff member from The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southeast Minnesota will be at Peace Church with a presentation to help us understand what NAMI, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization does and how it impacts us as a community. We will learn about NAMI programs and services and how they fit into the mental health care system.

## African Unity Dinner

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 AT 5:15p: Our Enormous Africa group is very excited to gather together on Africa Unity Day to enjoy some traditional African cuisine and music! The dinner will comprise of delicious African food including fried plantains, yam, the much talked about western African jollof rice, and much more. Beautiful and danceable African music will be played.

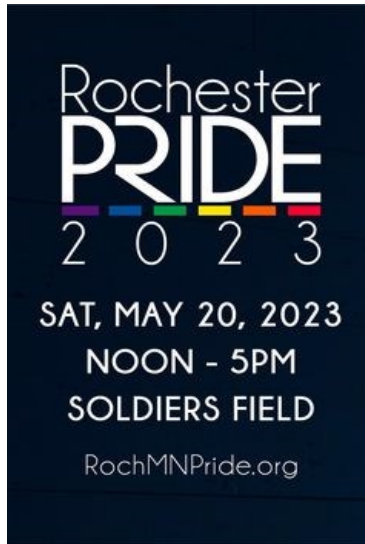
Africa Day dinner is opened to all. Sign up is required for all, as we will need to know how much food to prepare.

Sign Up: <https://signup.com/go/PkCDLuC>

All free will donations will go toward the cost of the meal and future Enormous Africa events/supplies. Read More about African Unity Day here: <https://nationaltoday.com/global-africa-day/>

**Images :** The teens worked hard to put on an amazing Easter breakfast for all to enjoy!





## Rochester Pride Booth Volunteers

SATURDAY, MAY 20 12-5p: Peace is very proud to once again be a Gold Sponsor at Rochester Pride! We need volunteers to take one hour shifts (or two) on May 20th at Rochester Pride IN Soldier's Field Park! Meet great people, see old friends and tell people about how great Peace Church is :) Sign up to help out here: [bit.ly/3Ak7R2X](https://bit.ly/3Ak7R2X)



**Image Top:** 2022 Pride MC Miss Anita Tiara  
**Image Left:** 2022 Pride Teens, (photo courtesy of Rochester Pride Facebook page)  
**Image Right:** Allan Vrieze volunteering at the 2022 Pride Booth

# PANCAKES FOR PRIDE



### A Fundraiser for the Peace Teens and our Pride Offering

SUNDAY, MAY 21 8:30-9:30a: Pop in for some pancakes and good company, all for a great cause! Breakfast will include juice and or coffee, pancakes, and sausage. A gluten free option will be available. Donations for this event will go toward our Pride offering ( during the 10a service) and the Peace Teens Youth Mission trip to Biloxi Mississippi in June.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for ways to get involved? We have many volunteer opportunities at Peace! You don't need to be an expert, just a willing volunteer.

As we continue to strengthen our programs and work to build new programs, we need help from willing volunteers. Check out the volunteer opportunities by scanning the QR code or going to: [bit.ly/3kFEfc0](https://bit.ly/3kFEfc0)

## TECH TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Peace is looking for individuals who are willing to help with the tech team responsibilities on Sunday mornings. We are in need of someone to advance the PowerPoint during service, people who are interested in training/ learning to run the sound. Follow the link below.

Current Sign ups:

### HOSPITALITY TEAMS

[Sunday Fellowship Hosts](#)- setting up fellowship coffee and snacks

[Sunday Greeters](#)- welcoming people as they arrive

[Sunday Offering Attendants \(Ushers\)](#)- Help out on Sundays with getting the offering plates passed around and collected.

[Wednesday Community Meal Volunteers](#) (IS BACK!)

[Friday Welcome Desk Volunteer](#)- Help with answering the office phone on Fridays



### TECH TEAM AND WORSHIP

[PowerPoint Volunteer](#) - Advance the PowerPoint through Sunday Service

[Children's Message Volunteer](#)- Reading or presenting the Children's Message

[Highway Clean Up](#) Meet up to help pick up litter on our adopted stretch of highway

[Pride Booth Volunteer](#) We need volunteers to take one hour shifts (or two) on May 20th at Rochester Pride! Meet great people, see old friends and tell people about how great Peace Church is

Questions? Contact Clare

## Little Free Pantry

YOU CAN HELP— Provide basic food items to neighbors experiencing hunger this summer. Our little free pantry is always in need of donations! As summer approaches please check out the list of items that can withstand the summer heat!

[Questions? Contact Dawn Bradley.](#)



## SUMMER NEEDS

Ramen  
Rice  
Ravioli\*  
Spaghetti  
Tuna pouches  
Chili\*  
EZ mac  
Applesauce cups  
Fruit cups  
Pudding cups  
Juice boxes or pouches  
Oatmeal packs  
Peanut butter  
Jerky  
Crackers  
Pretzels

Water  
Nuts  
Cereal (single serve box)  
Vienna sausages\*  
Jelly  
Pasta  
Pasta sauce  
Tampons, pads  
Toothpaste, brushes  
Socks (new)  
Baby wipes  
Band-aids  
Soup (not condensed)\*  
\*Easy open containers

**Image :** Sanctuary filled on Easter Sunday!



# OPEN

OUR·PEACE·EFFORTS·NOW



Thank you to all who were able to attend the All Church Dinner on April 22. It was truly a wonderful way to re-open and bless our church with love.

Peace is VERY excited to announce the collaboration that will take place over the next year with the wonderful **John Pavlovitz**. Having John as a consultant as we envision and foster the future of Peace Church will broaden our scope immensely.



*John Pavlovitz*

Ministry

## TEAMS

What is your *passion, profession, interest, or most important* to you for the future of our church?



### Peace Ministry Teams – A new approach

We are requesting all church members join a ministry team. These teams will be key to continuing the momentum/growth of our church. The idea is if we all do a little bit we can do huge/amazing things. If we continue with only a few people doing most of the work, we will get nowhere fast. You will not be expected to do anything on your own. You will be asked to partner up with a couple others from your team to do something throughout the next year. Team up!! We've got this!

#### Ministry Teams:

- Faith Formation
- Worship
- Social Action
- Membership/Fellowship/Visibility/Vitality



See the bulletin board at church with all of the details and to sign up.

Questions can be directed to council reps or Lynn Alcock

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## May

## Birthdays

We celebrate with those in our church family who have birthdays in May

- 01** John Kuth
- 02** Samuel Giere
- 04** Ruth Lyngholm
- 05** Jeff Teskey
- 06** Amy Allen, James Fritsche
- 09** Ed Leof
- 11** Susan Crawley,  
Audrey Johnson,  
Rob Stevens
- 12** Linda Bradley
- 14** Cecilia Kesselring
- 16** Keira Basballe,  
Leslie Sunnock
- 18** Louis Vangalis
- 21** Shirley Fritz
- 23** Ila Teskey
- 27** Rick Laughlin
- 28** Tamara Berven
- 29** Charles Barrows,  
Donell Beaulieu,  
Anne Fritsche,  
Ayda Thompson
- 31** Keondre Bryant

	MAR 2023	YEAR-TO-DATE	MAR 2022
Pledges budgeted	\$32,500	\$97,500	\$35,167
Pledges received	\$24,930	\$92,433	\$11,487
Difference	-\$ 7,570	-\$ 5,067	-\$23,680

Pledges for the month of March were surprisingly down by **-\$7,570**, but we are ahead of last year's numbers by \$13,443. YTD we are down **-\$5,067** from budget, but still ahead of last year by \$11,612. Also, our YTD non-pledged dollars are still ahead of budget by \$70 and ahead of 2022 YTD by \$1,423.

Our total income for March was down **-\$5,086** from budget, but ahead of last year by \$16,206. Total income against budget YTD is down **-\$4,820**, but ahead of last year by \$14,654. And again, the total income does not reflect any Listos rent dollars. We show a nice income from interest earned from our bank accounts and increases in the use of building to outside groups is continuing to grow.

Overall expense control continues to be handled very well. We were over budgeted expenses for the month by \$953, but YTD we are \$15,937 under budget. Month to date, our expenses were down \$11,000 from 2022 March and \$29,450 down from last YTD.

We're still going. Hopefully March was a fluke and we can get back on track for the month of April!

Please contact Tom DeYoung (LTDEYOUNG@msn.com) if you have any questions.



**Image Top:** Waving of palms—Hosanna!!

**Image Left:** Congregation prepares to process in for Palm Sunday