

OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEATURED EVENTS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

BIRTHDAYS

February 2023

Fire Update

We surpassed 8 months of our rebuilding and now are in the final home stretch. Things are starting to take shape...we are getting so close! Only 3-1/2 more months to go. Soon we will be able to celebrate Making ALL Things New—our building, our ministries, and our programming. Here are the key updates that have occurred:

- Entire north end has been sheet rocked, taped, and sanded.
- Painting on the north end has begun.
- Ceiling tiles have been installed in the basement area.
- Polytek flooring repairs were completed in a few areas.
- Peace Room ceiling was demoed and new HVAC and fire sprinkler system is being installed.
- Stage extensions have been removed.
- New flooring in old Senior High Room has been installed.
- Cabinetry replaced in the Nursery (eg, Wiggle Room) - scheduled to take place Jan 30 or 31.

We are hopeful that we will have the Dwelling available to us by the first part of February. With the new HVAC work, sprinkler-head adjustments, and lighting replacements, this has taken longer than we hoped.

I was asked if it was possible to gain access to the north end in increments. Due to city and building approvals, everything must be finished before any occupancy can take place; we are still on target for Easter...and what an amazing celebration that will be!! If you have any questions about the fire renovation, please reach out to me or Pastor Paul.

Making All Things New!!

Debby



Photo Left—New duct work added in the Dwelling



Photo Right—Peace Room ceiling demoed

CALENDAR

February Events

THURSDAY 2: Women's Fellowship, 8a, ZOOM;

SATURDAY 4: Teen Chip Shots Event, 6p

SUNDAY 5: Traditional Worship w/Communion, 10a; Faith Formation, 11:15a, F-Hall; Confirmation, 11:15a, Loc TBD; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p; Enormous Africa 7p Zoom

MONDAY 6: Social Action/Missions Team Meeting, 6p

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

WEDNESDAY 8: Church Council, 7p, F-Hall

THURSDAY 9: Women's Fellowship, 8a, ZOOM

SUNDAY 12: Special Worship w/Laura Fierro, 10a; Faith Formation, 11:15a, F-Hall; Adult Faith Formation Guest Speaker Joan Leaf - Civil Rights Trail Trip 11:15a, Sanc; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

TUESDAY 14: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p; Race Forward, 6:30p, ZOOM

THURSDAY 16: Women's Fellowship, 8a; Card Sharks 6:30p, Narthex

FRIDAY 17: All Ages Movie Night, 5:30p, F-Hall

SUNDAY 19: Special Worship with Teresa Walter, 10a; Faith Formation, 11:15a, F-Hall; Confirmation, 11:15a, Loc TBD; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

TUESDAY 21: Men's Fellowship 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p;

WEDNESDAY 22: Ash Wednesday; Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Ash Wednesday Service 6:30p

THURSDAY 23: Women's Fellowship, 8a, ZOOM;

SUNDAY 26: Contemporary Worship (Baby Swensen Baptism), 10a; Faith Formation, 11:15a, F-Hall, Discussion w/Shari Prestemon, 11a, Sanc; Christway Full Gospel, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p; Enormous Africa 7p Zoom

TUESDAY 28: Men's Fellowship 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible, 5p; Race Forward 6:30p, ZOOM

Community Meal Nights are coming back on February 22!



Photo Top:

Outgoing Council President John Kuth turns over the reigns to the newly elected President Dawn Stevens at the Jan 22 Annual Meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH:

- 5: Teen Bake Auction Fundraiser
- 8: Easter Giving Collection Begins
- 17: All Ages Movie Night– Movie TBD
- 19: OGHS United Church of Christ Offering
- 25: Drag Queen Bingo 4p & 7p
- 26: Guest Speaker: Jeremiah Project

APRIL:

- 2: Palm Sunday
- 7: Good Friday Service, 6p
- 8: Peace Kids Easter Bash (Food, Games and Fun!)
- 9: Easter Sunday Service w/Pancake Breakfast
- 21: All Ages Movie Night– Movie TBD

What We're Learning: Reflections on Thriving

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 9a-12p: Faith Formation advocates and supporters are encouraged to attend a morning discussion with Pastor Linda Reynolds about how Faith Formation at Peace Church integrates with all of our ministries. The future of the Faith Formation sits in the hands of each and every one of us.

Linda shares, "There is no more important ministry of the local church than faith formation and its mission of forming people of all ages and generations in Christian faith and discipleship for a lifetime. I believe that vibrant and vital lifelong faith formation is transformational for individuals, families, and the whole church.

"The significant challenges and obstacles churches face are daunting, but I see them as opportunities for reinventing faith formation, for innovation, for becoming more responsive, resilient, flexible and adaptable.

"Let's turn off autopilot and begin to imagine and discover where the Spirit of God is moving in the People of God. In Isaiah 43 and again in Revelation 21, we see God's bedrock promise: 'I am making all things new.' This is prompt for us to look forward, to consider the ways God is moving. And this becomes palpable as we consider how the Body of Christ can continue to make things new, and even make new things! As we reflect on current success of faith formation and imagine the future at Peace United Church of Christ, may the Spirit of God empower us and the congregation to live into making new things in new ways to inspire all of us." - Rev. Linda Reynolds



Volunteers and Donations Needed:

Drag Queen bingo is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 with TWO show options! We are very excited to make this happen but we need your help! We are in need of volunteers to help out with set up, kitchen sales, admission, tear down, etc... and donations of food/treats/water (all prepacked and store bought) that we can sell during the show!



We all know what showing up looks like. We see people showing up for one another in some way or another every day. Even with all the bad news, if we are really looking, we will find people supporting people. It's much easier to see people "showing up" when we ourselves, are showing up too. When we intentionally "show up" we see who is there, we reach out, and we stop turning a blind eye to what needs to be done or assuming that our efforts are not needed.

But, even when we want to show up, it's very easy to convince ourselves that our presence or support is not bold or brave enough. It's easy to see the lack of hours in a day and assume that someone else has more time than we do. We assume that someone else would probably do a much better job or be more qualified to help - this is where we are usually wrong and why we step back and become quiet observers.

What if instead of just thinking of showing up, we challenged ourselves to also "show out"? What if we decided that if we give it our all, or 100% on one small task or one volunteer opportunity, our showing up would be bold and brave and we would be qualified to help.

Stepping into a new year, I am asking you to challenge yourself to "show up and show out" for this church that you love. Show up and represent Peace Church as a person who is giving 100% to something even if you are not 100% sure of what you are doing. Show up and show others that they too can be bold and brave. Make your impression known and reflect a spirit of giving. "Show out" your time, talents, and treasures!

Let's commit to being physically, emotionally, and mentally present as we "show up", to do GREAT WORK and DEDICATE OURSELVES to being the things we want our church to be.

-Clare

There are a lot of ways to show up. Please see the list of volunteer opportunities by visiting the PUCG Sign-up Opportunities Page: bit.ly/3kFEfc0.

If you don't have access to a computer, please call Clare (507.282.6117) to let her know where you'd like to get plugged in!

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 going to: bit.ly/3kFEfc0

Current Sign ups:

HOSPITALITY TEAMS

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

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

[Wednesday Community Meal Volunteers](#) (COMING 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

ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

[Drag Queen Bingo Volunteers and Donations](#)- Volunteers are needed!

Questions? Contact Clare (aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)



Photo Top:
Special musical guests during worship

Photo Left:
People enjoying the January All-Ages Movie Night



Photo Top:
Karl Rist sharing an important message during Children's Time

Photo Right:
The Wieland brothers sharing their music during worship



FEATURED EVENTS

Enormous Africa

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AND 26 , 7p (ZOOM) —In February, we will have two sessions of Enormous Africa. The dates are February 2nd and 23rd, at 7pm, on zoom. We will continue our studies on Rwanda.

The Rwandan genocide of 1994, being the worst genocide of the 20th century and how the world sat so reluctantly and watched the carnage, still hunts the world today. It is important for humanity to learn more about this genocide and take steps that this never happens anywhere on earth.

Therefore, for our sessions on February 2 and 23, we will watch a movie called, "Black Earth Rising." The movie is a 2018 TV series available on Netflix. It is about the prosecution of an African militia leader at the International Criminal Court by a British prosecutor whose adopted daughter from Rwanda is fully involved. Kindly watch episodes 1-4 for February 2, and episodes 5-8 for February 23. Kindly mark Wednesday, 24 May on your calendar for our big African Unity Dinner, then we take our summer break.

Please see the eNews for links to the Zoom meetings

Questions? Contact Jerry Locula
(jlocula@gmail.com)

Guest Speaker: Civil Rights Trail

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 11:15a—Joan and Ed Leof will be sharing details from their trip through Montgomery, Birmingham and Memphis on what is known as The Civil Rights Trail. This presentation will include photos of museums that they visited, information that they gathered and their feedback on the very impactful experience.

All Ages Movie Night

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 5:30p —Bring your favorite pillow and blanket and join us as we watch "Matilda the Musical" Cost is \$5/family for pizza and pop. Please sign up here: bit.ly/3Da4NbE
Questions? Contact Stacy Beyer-Groth
(sdbeyergroth99@gmail.com).

Hospitality Teams: Greeters Needed

SUNDAYS 9:30-10a- Peace Church is bringing back the Hospitality Teams!

Join the team of folks who assist on Sunday mornings to be intentional Greeters. In addition to greeting members and welcoming guests, you may be asked to assist in directing someone to sign up sheets they are interested in, and/or escort someone to where a room for book study or faith formation is located. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or visit bit.ly/3w5a1kT
Questions? Contact Clare
(aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)

Fellowship Host Sign Up

SUNDAYS—Immediately following service, be a part of our Sunday Fellowship Team by signing up to host Fellowship time following Sunday Service. Duties include making coffee, providing snacks and clean up. To sign up, visit the Welcome Desk or visit bit.ly/3R1s4Cj
Questions? Contact Clare
(aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)

Community Meal Nights

WEDNESDAYS STARTING ON FEBRUARY 22 (ASH WEDNESDAY)—Peace Church is excited to bring back Community Meal Nights! Each Wednesday we will be providing an opportunity to get to know our neighbors by hosting a meal and offering our fellowship to all. This meal is provided at no cost but suggested donations for those who are able will be \$5 per person. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve and clean up (5-7p). To sign up, visit: bit.ly/3H8fBrT.
Questions? Contact Clare
(aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

	DEC 2022	YEAR-TO-DATE	DEC 2021
Pledges budgeted	\$35,167	\$422,000	\$35,167
Pledges received	\$39,199	\$381,332	\$47,492
Difference	\$4,032	- \$40,668	\$12,325

Pledged gifts for the month were up by \$4,032, but were down from December 2021 by **-\$8,293**. YTD we are down **-\$40,668** from budget and **-\$3,746** from last year of actual pledges received.

Total income was over budget by \$8,879 but down **-\$53,043** from YTD budget; \$13,600 can be attributed to the shortfall of receiving rent from Listos.

Our expenses for the month were below budget by \$2,357. YTD expenses were down \$17,020 from budget. Compared to last year, our expenses were down by \$49,100.

Net Income/Bottom Line for the month is up \$11,237. YTD our income was down **-\$36,023**. Compared to last year, our net income was better by \$4,327.

Our year-end net income was **-\$18,529**. This isn't bad when you compare it to our Total Income being down **-\$53,043**.

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

February Birthdays

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

- 01** Mike Maloney, Sean Molitor, Beverly Moravec
- 07** Melissa Bourquin, Michelle Brandenburg Schroeder
- 10** Tonia Ely, Russ Koelsch, Fred Trachsel
- 11** Ben Sullivan
- 12** Bruce Adams, Benjamin Walton
- 14** Steve Berg
- 16** Mark Huyber
- 17** Kim Davis, Jeremy Newton
- 19** Ivy Kuliniski, Ben Wieland
- 20** Glenn Lilleskov, Emmaus McLaurin
- 21** Scott Bradley, Katherine Gordon, Robert Lyngholm
- 23** Alicia Buda, Joel Gordon II
- 25** Helen Corfits
- 26** Brynn Sonnenberg, Arianna Sonnenberg
- 27** Jeff Hanson
- 28** Gavin Soto



Photo Left: 3rd to 4th Grade classroom (aka old Sr High Youth Rm) ready for furniture! We will be holding a ceiling tile painting event for all 3rd to 4th graders—more

Birthday Card Shower

Helen Corfits will be turning 100 on February 25. We are asking everyone to help her celebrate by sending a birthday card to her attention using the church's address (1503 2nd Avenue NE, Rochester, MN 55906).



Let's shower her with lots of love on this amazing milestone!!