

OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

September 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEATURED EVENTS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

AFRO-CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

PATHWAYS

AUGUST MOMENTS & BIRTHDAYS

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS SET...

We are **THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE** our **NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

(Beginning Sunday, September 17)

9:15 Gathering/Engagement Time

- Pre-K through Elementary – Songs and Opening Time
- Teens (Middle and High School) – Rec Time/Games
- Adults – Conversation, Coffee

9:30 Learning Time for ALL AGES

- Pre-K
- Early Elementary
- Older Elementary
- Middle School and High School will begin together and then split into 2 groups
- Adult

10:30 Worship

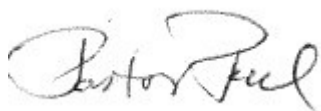
Now that COVID is over and the fire damaged has been restored, we have been intentionally focused over the past year on rebuilding/re-establishing our Faith Formation program for our children, teens, and adults. Working with Linda Reynolds and John Pavlovitz, we have been able to design a great model moving forward.

Under the leadership of the Vision Team, Church Council, Staff Members (and YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!), we have invested financially to create a Full-Time Director of Programming and Music (Dylon Starr). Dylon has great creativity, and through the collaboration of his Curriculum Development Team an amazing program for Peace United has been created!

We have also welcomed over 20 adult leaders who will help lead/facilitate our children's and teen Sunday morning program. Pastor Jerry and Pastor Paul are also working to create and lead an adult learning time. The exciting part is that all learners (Pre-K through Adults) will be learning, reflecting, and engaging with the same Bible stories. And, the scripture of the day will be incorporated into the Sunday morning worship experience. This new schedule will also allow us to have multi-generational learning experiences, helps all more fully engage in our scriptures, builds community, and provides opportunities for programs and events to be scheduled before and after worship.

Peace

Pastor Paul



CALENDAR

September Events

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE STARTING SEPT. 17

TUESDAY 1: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

THURSDAY 3: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Narthex

SUNDAY 3: Traditional Service with Communion 10a; ONEVOICE Rehearsal 11:15a Sanctuary; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

TUESDAY 5: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

THURSDAY 7: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room;

SUNDAY 10: RALLY DAY! Traditional Worship, 10a; Pathways 11:15a, All Church; Rally Day Celebration 12p, Peace Lawn; Christway Full Gospel Ministry, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

TUESDAY 12: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

WEDNESDAY 13: Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall

THURSDAY 14: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Rm

TUESDAY 19: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

WEDNESDAY 20: Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Church Council 7p, F-Hall

THURSDAY 21: Women's Fellowship, 8a, Peace Rm; Card Sharks 6:30p, Narthex

SATURDAY 23: Confirmation Retreat 9a, F-Hall

SUNDAY 24: Pathways Gathering 9:15a, Choir Rm; Pathways all ages 9:30, All Classrooms; Worship Service, 10:30a; Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm; Christway Full Gospel, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p

TUESDAY 26: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22; Afro-Christian Convention Book Study, 6p, ZOOM

WEDNESDAY 27: Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Peace Teen Activity 6:30p, F-Hall & Kitchen

THURSDAY 28: Women's Fellowship, 8a, Peace Rm



LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

3,10, 24, 31: Afro-Christian Convention Book Study Meetings via Zoom
14 Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Event
28: Drag Queen Bingo 4p & 7p
29: Trunk or Treat (Listos Parking Lot) 3-4p

NOVEMBER

16-19 John Pavlovitz weekend
19: Thanksgiving Meal

SUNDAY 17:

9:15a Gathering/Engagement Time

- Pre-K through Elementary – Songs and Opening Time
- Teens (Middle and High School) – Rec Time/Games
- Adults – Conversation, Coffee

9:30 Learning Time for ALL AGES

- Pre-K
- Early Elementary
- Older Elementary
- Middle School and High School will begin together and then split into 2 groups:
- Adults

10:30 Worship

Confirmation Follow-up 11:45a, F-Hall; Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm; Christway Full Gospel, 1p; La Senda Antigua Church, 3p



Above: Teen Lock-in TP Pastor Paul's office!
 Below: Left-Dylon Starr and Kyle Meerkin, performed a sold out Dueling Pianos Show August 26, 2023, Right- Dueling pianos charcuterie boats and volunteers



September Birthdays

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

- 03 Dale McCamish
- 06 Wendy Nevala, April Oelkers
- 07 Evelyn Stiller
- 08 Aubrey Burkhard,
Kaylene Geiger
- 09 Erick Rist
- 10 Ken Fritz, Tamara Haack
- 11 Vivien LeQuire,
Shelley Schmitt
- 14 Margie Barrows, Joel Gordon
- 15 Grayson Bignell,
Anthony Cook,
- 16 David Arns, Carlton Swan
- 17 Mary Bennett,
Thomas Winters
- 18 Joan Bietz, Anya Theuer
- 21 June Kulinski,
Jennifer Newton
- 22 Judy Berg
- 23 Ben Bedard, Quintin Dykes,
Carrie Wieland
- 24 Sharon Franklin,
Sarah Gordon
- 25 Cassidy Harmon
- 26 Olive Ryg
- 28 Bruce Franklin
- 29 Karla Hamilton, Kim Tande,
Jesse Wilder
- 30 Judi Bjork, Melissa McLaurin

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

**HALLOWEEN
DRAG QUEEN
BINGO**

TWO PERFORMANCES
4P & 7P

TICKETS SALES 9.10.23 - 10.28.23
OR UNTIL SOLD OUT

CASH PRIZES



COSTUME CONTEST



PATHWAYS

SUNDAYS, 9:30a

Lessons on being a good human

Pathways is a weekly PreK-Adult program designed to promote kindness, compassion and peace within the community.

Pathways

Pathways is an engaging and interactive series of activities and workshops to help you learn more about yourself, your community, and your spirituality.

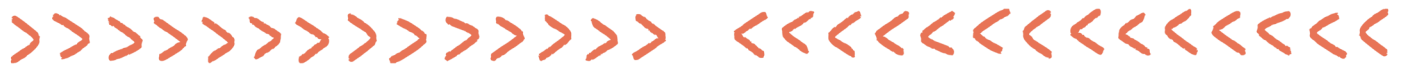
- Register your child for Pathways here: <https://forms.gle/dJ85qPm2R6UuDQrW6>

- Link to the Pathways Plan: www.peacechurchucc.org/pathways

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULTS

Peace is seeking adults to help teach lessons each Sunday, 9:30–10:15a. No teaching experience required. Lessons and materials will be provided by Peace staff.

Contact Dylan Starr with questions or if interested in teaching or assisting, 507-282-6117.



WHO IS WELCOME AT PATHWAYS?

People ages 3+ are invited to Pathways, Sundays from 9:30–10a at Peace. Children in grades 2-4 will receive student Bibles on Sunday, September 10.

WHAT WILL I LEARN AT PATHWAYS?

From September 10-October 8, we will explore the theme What are we made of? We will learn more about the traditions, stories, nourishment, and goodness that help make us who we are. Other themes we will explore this year include creating a "Bigger Table" and the Underground Railroad.

WHAT ARE WE MADE OF

September 10: Traditions

Work on a multigenerational team to uncover artifacts. Discover their use in ancient times and explore why they are still relevant today!

September 17: Stories

Share stories with one another, and discuss what they mean to us. How does language impact storytelling? How do stories make us better people?

September 24: Food

Give back to the community by helping people who cannot secure food easily for themselves. Donate food, pack care packages, and feel the positive effects of making a difference in someone else's life.

NEW SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPT. 17



FEATURED EVENTS

RALLY DAY
2023



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10a Worship
11:15a Pathways
12-2p Rally Day Celebration

"Rally Day" is an annual kick off to a brand new year of learning and leading in our Pathways Program.

Join the fun at 12p and enjoy pizza, a bounce house, activities, and great company!!

Rally Day

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10—The 2023-2024 Pathways Program year begins with Rally Day and an exciting new lineup of lessons where all ages will explore questions of life and faith together!

BRING A FRIEND and enter to win \$25 Visa gift card for EACH OF YOU

RALLY DAY SCHEDULE

10a: Worship Service

11:15a: Pathways- Caregivers and children, gather in the Fellowship Hall to learn about what Pathways will look like this year! Please follow the registration link below.

12p: Rally Day Celebration: Join us on the front lawn for food, games and a bounce house!

NEW SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPT. 17

Hawthorne Helps

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER—
Help neighbors in need feel their best as they head back to school!

Hawthorne Helps is a partnership between Rochester Public Schools' Hawthorne Education Center and First Unitarian Universalist Church with support from many faith communities. Volunteers staff a distribution area offering free items to adult students that cannot be purchased with SNAP (food stamps). 85% live at or below the poverty level. HH is currently in need of floss, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Donations can be dropped at the Welcome Desk in the Box labeled "Hawthorne Helps"

Questions? Contact Questions? Contact Clare



Community Meal Nights

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING SEPT 13, 5:15p—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: <https://bit.ly/3LeX2VU>
If you would like to prepare a meal, please contact Clare.

Questions? Contact Clare
(aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)

NAMI Walk Sponsor

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23—Peace Church Social Action team is very excited to be a sponsor at the NAMI Walks MN event this year. Our group will provide coolers full of water and people to greet walkers along their route. If you are interesting in donating bottled water, or have a cooler that we could use, please reach out to Clare at the Welcome Desk (aoffice@peacechurchucc.org).

Coming up....

Drag Queen Bingo

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28—Volunteers and Donations Needed: We are excited to make this happen, but need your help! We are in need of volunteers to help out with set up, food/water sales, admission, tear down and donations of water and/or treats (all prepacked and store bought) that can be sold during the show. Link to sign up. <https://signup.com/go/scqHdRU>

Drag Queen Bingo Event: Two shows are scheduled—early and late, with a max attendance of 104 for each show. Costumes are encouraged, prizes will be awarded for the best outfits. Over \$500 in cash prizes (if the bingo playing audience exceeds 100 players) for each show. Advanced Ticket Sales will be sold at \$15/pp (ONLINE ONLY) and open on Sunday, September 10. If the show is not sold out, tickets will be available for purchase at the door (CASH OR CHECK ONLY) for \$20/pp. LINK TO TICKETS: <https://bit.ly/3slFACN>

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

Current Sign ups:

HOSPITALITY TEAMS

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

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

Sunday Ushers/Offering Assistants

[Wednesday Community Meal Volunteers](#) sign up to provide the meal, help with set up and serving or help with clean up

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

TECH TEAM VOLUNTEERS

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

ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

[Feed My Starving Children Volunteer \(Oct 14\)](#)

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

Questions? Contact Clare (aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)



AFRO-CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

The Fifth Stream of the UCC A Book Study

Pastor Jerry Locula of Peace UCC and Rev. Danielle Bartz of the 1st Congregational of Winona will lead a 5 week book study via Zoom starting September 26, 2023

The group will gather on Zoom to discuss the book "[Afro-Christian Convention](#)" by Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk.

Beginning on September 26, gathering will be on Tuesday at 6:30p and will last 75 minutes.

Please sign up at: <https://bit.ly/3EjdPTD>

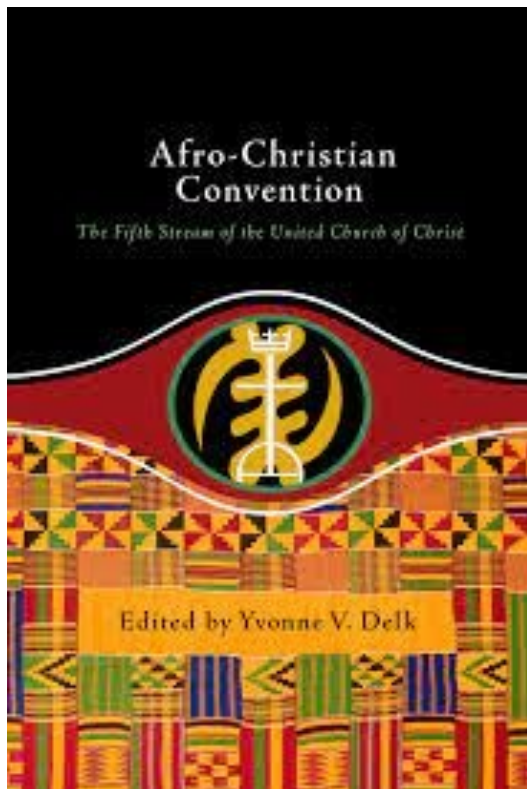


Pastor Jerry Locula



Rev. Danielle Bartz

The story of the Afro-Christian Convention, one story of many in the history of the independent Black Church, is the story of faith, survival, affirmation, and empowerment in the hostile environment of racism. From 1892 to the 1960s, the Afro-Christian Convention was composed of 150 churches and 25,000 members, located primarily in North Carolina and Virginia. The tradition of the Afro-Christian church, too long ignored and under-celebrated, takes its rightful place in the canon of United Church of Christ history.



"Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ is a must-read story of the recovery and restoration of the Afro-Christian Convention to its rightful place alongside the denominations that formed the United Church of Christ. The book traces the emergence of independent Black churches in America from the invisible to the visible - from hush harbors and white church balconies - to conferences and conventions, including the Afro-Christian Convention (1866-1950). Its story is recounted from oral histories, sermons, conference minutes, newspaper publications, personal papers, and archival records in such details that I felt as if I was one among the daughters and sons baptized and nurtured in the Afro-Christian church. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the sacred history and witness of this independent Black church that helped form a predominantly White denomination." --Reverend Vanessa Lovelace, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Link to book: <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/afro-christian-convention-the-fifth-stream-of-the-united-church-of-christ>

Interested? Please sign up here so we can send you more info including the weekly Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3EjdPTD>