

# OLIVE BRANCH

PEACE  CHURCH

## January 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEATURED EVENTS

GIVE LOCALLY

COMMUNITY GROUPS

PATHWAYS INFO.

FINANCIAL UPDATE & BIRTHDAYS

If you're reading this, you made it through 2023! Congratulations! You must have done everything just right. You exercised. You cut back on your vices. You managed your time wisely. You cleaned. You gave. You prayed. You. Were. Perfect. Right?

Well, you didn't work out every day you had planned. And you did share that cigar with your friend when his kid was born. You often missed the first ten minutes of that meeting. Hmm... Not so perfect after all.

Even with the best of intentions, which many of us set for ourselves around this time of year, it can be hard to stick to a good habit. Lucky for us, God doesn't ask us to be perfect. God is the perfect one so that we don't have to be. We get to learn from our mistakes. That's the gift we all receive as God's children, and it's a gift we get to share.

Pathways returns this Sunday, January 7 at 9:15. The theme for the first six weeks of the year is Appreciating Diversity and Black History Month. What mistakes have you made during your interactions with people different from yourself? What mistakes have been made at your expense as the "other" in a group? Come explore, improve, and learn about yourself at Peace as we set our intentions and make mistakes together as a faith community. Share your experiences with us. Set a goal to attend Pathways every week. Bring a friend. If you miss a week, you're forgiven. Nobody's perfect.

In 2024, don't think "new year, new you." Instead, think "new year, new perspective." Take small steps to improve yourself or your habits. Learn from your mistakes. Be present. Help others. Be smart. Let God be the perfect one; you deserve the space to grow.



Dylan Starr  
Director of Programming and Music



Photo Credit: Jody Morbeck: Christmas Eve Choir



# CALENDAR

## January Events



**TUESDAY 2:** Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

**WEDNESDAY 3:** Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall;

**THURSDAY 4:** Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room; Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom

**FRIDAY 5:** Channel One Volunteers 9a, Channel One HQ

**SUNDAY 7: Communion Sunday** Pathways Resumes 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service with Communion, 10:30a; Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm;

**TUESDAY 9:** Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22; Race Forward 6:30p, Zoom

**WEDNESDAY 10:** Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Church Council 7p, Peace Room

**THURSDAY 11:** Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Rm

**SATURDAY 13:** Free Rainbow Choir Concert 6p

**SUNDAY 14:** Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service with Communion, 10:30a; Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm;

**TUESDAY 16:** : Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

**WEDNESDAY 17:** : Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Church Council Meeting 7p, F-Hall

**THURSDAY 18:** Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Rm; Card Sharks 6:30p, Narthex; Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom

**SUNDAY 21:** Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service , 10:30a; **Annual Congregational Meeting Immediately Following Service, F-Hall;** Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm;

**TUESDAY 23:** : Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22; Race Forward 6:30p, Zoom

**WEDNESDAY 24:** Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall

**THURSDAY 25:** Women's Fellowship, 8a, Peace Rm

**SUNDAY 28:** Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Classrooms; Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm

**TUESDAY 30:** Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

**WEDNESDAY 31:** Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall

## Rochester Rainbow Choir Concert

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 6p: The Rochester Rainbow Choir at Peace United is thrilled to announce its first concert, **January 13 at 6 p.m.** at Peace United! The group is sharing some favorite popular music, including "Party in the USA," "Edge of Seventeen," and "Unstoppable." The Rainbow Choir is a welcoming space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies. The concert is free to attend; donations will be accepted.

Rochester Rainbow Choir was founded by two community members looking for a safe and inclusive choir that was accepting of all talents and ALL PEOPLE! This group is truly an example of "Community" Peace is very honored to have the RRC rehearsing and performing in the Peace United space and sharing our Director of Programming and Music, Dylan Starr as their Choir Director. Please consider supporting this group by attending this performance!!



## Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, Immediately following service —The Peace Church Annual Meeting will be held after the 10:30a service. The purpose of this meeting is to bring everyone up to date on the happenings of our church, including our ministry initiatives, and voting on the church budget for 2024.

Questions? Contact Dawn Stevens ([dawgstevens@gmail.com](mailto:dawgstevens@gmail.com))

## LOOKING AHEAD

### FEBRUARY

2: Channel One Volunteering

4 & 18: Enormous Africa

9: Listos "Noche de Amor y Amistad"  
"Evening of Love and Friendship"

18: Blanket-fort Night, Teen and Youth Event

19-21: John Pavlovitz Visit

# Rochester Rainbow Choir

presents  
A Rainbow in Harmony

WHEN? January 13th,  
2024  
Doors open 5:30 pm  
for 6:00 pm concert!

Admissions: Free to the  
Public  
Donations acceptions

WHERE? Peace United  
Fellowship Hall  
1503 2nd Ave NE,

## Listos Preschool Gala: An Evening of Love and Friendship

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9:6:30p in the Fellowship Hall

Show your love for community, culture and cuisine during Listos' first ever Noche de Amor y Amistad - evening of Love and Friendship.

This fundraising gala features food and music from across Latin America in a high-energy, immersive, entertaining experience. There will be contests, prizes, Latin dance lessons and an auction. Then it's time to turn up the heat with the hottest Latin dance music spun by DJ SupaFly.

Dress code is: Date Night - wear what you love. Ages 21+

All proceeds support the amazing work of Listos Preschool and Childcare, Rochester's first nonprofit bilingual early learning program.

Now in our 9th school year, 65 percent of our students receive tuition assistance. Listos is also active in addressing access to high quality childcare, empowering families and building cross cultural connections.

Tickets are \$75. Or reserve a table for 8 great friends and loved ones for \$550. After-party-only tickets are \$40, includes snacks, a drink ticket, dance lesson and Latin music dance party.

Link to tickets: <https://bit.ly/41LtOVE>

*Compra sus boletos hoy*

Listos Preschool & Childcare

NOCHE DE Amor Y AMISTAD

- LATIN DANCE MUSIC
- FOODS FROM LATIN AMERICA
- AUCTION
- CONTESTS AND PRIZES
- IN SUPPORT OF LISTOS BILINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION

- MUSICA LATINA
- CENA LATINA AUTENTICA
- SUBASTA
- CONCURSOS Y PREMIOS
- TODO EN APOYO AL PROGRAMA BILINGÜE DE LISTOS

9 FEB 2024

EVENING OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP FUNDRAISING GALA

# THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL



*Right here, in our community*

## Little Free Pantry

YOU CAN HELP—Provide basic food items to neighbors experiencing hunger this winter. Please refer to the suggested list of cold weather needs. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

General guidelines: Ready to eat soups with pop-tops (no can opener needed). No glass containers. Single-serve sized items (not bulk or family sized). No expired items. No used or open items. No canned veggies (they do not get taken). Give dignity by choosing items you would eat yourself or serve to

Scarves, hats, gloves  
Handwarmers  
Socks (all sizes, kid & adult)  
Plain t-shirts (all sizes)  
Diapers, wipes  
Toilet paper, Kleenex  
Tampons, pads  
Chapstick  
Deodorant  
Lotion, soap  
Toothpaste, brushes  
Peanut butter  
Pasta sauce, pasta  
Rice, pasta, ramen

EZ mac  
Chunky soups, canned ravioli/  
SpaghettiOs  
Cereal (hot and cold)  
Snack crackers  
Dried fruit, nuts, jerky  
Granola bars  
Tuna packs  
Rice/potato mixes  
Canned meat  
\*No condensed soups, please



Photo Credit: Jody Morbeck: ABOVE: Dec. 10, 2023 Baptism of Archer Altas Meer.



Photo Credit: Jody Morbeck:  
LEFT: Dec. 20, 2023 Blue  
Christmas Service  
RIGHT & BELOW: December 24,  
2023 Christmas Eve Service





Find Your People · Show Your Talents · Share Your Gifts

### **Channel One Volunteer Team**

FIRST FRIDAYS 9-11a: The Peace Church Channel One team is back in action! Join the team on the first Friday of December to volunteer at Channel One Food Bank. Each volunteer will need to sign up online and complete the necessary requirements (short video and waiver) before they can volunteer. To sign up please contact [Linda Bradley](mailto:linda123bradley@yahoo.com) or [Jody Morbeck](mailto:jl1morbeck@gmail.com) (linda123bradley@yahoo.com) (jl1morbeck@gmail.com)  
Dates: 2/2, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7

### **Race Forward via Zoom**

SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7p: This group strives to move the conversation forward about race and privilege in our society. Questions? Contact [Ruth Larson](mailto:rularoch@hotmail.com) rularoch@hotmail.com

### **Men's Fellowship**

TUESDAYS 7:a Welcome to Men of Peace! The first part of our gathering is spent socializing, getting caught up with our individual lives and discussing events that have occurred during the past week. The second half is dedicated to examining the Bible passages for the upcoming Sunday. Our conversations center around what the passage means for us in this time and place. We are also involved with many other activities in the church and community. We welcome men of all ages, which gives us all a better perspective of what it means to belong to this group and what the mission of our group is as we move forward in life together.

### **Women's Fellowship**

THURSDAYS 8:30a: In Women's Fellowship group, we explore ideas through books, current events, and recent sermon topics. On a rotating basis, members choose a book for the group to read in segments and then we have a series of discussions. Conversations often stray from the book depending on what is happening in our lives. Several times a year we meet at a local restaurant for breakfast to celebrate finishing our most recent book. New members are welcomed anytime. This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know other women in the church.

### **Beverage and Bible -Tavern 22**

TUESDAYS 5P: At this group, the pub is experienced as sacred space. Come and enjoy a laid back and friendly atmosphere where we connect over drinks and good conversation. Often we will discuss light topics such as the meaning of life, the existence of God, and the nature of reality. All kidding aside, this group is very informal! Come as you are and enjoy good company.  
The first part of our group is spent catching up, followed by discussing a Bible passage.  
When: Tuesdays @ 5:00 - 6:00p  
Where: Tavern 22 (3401 Northern Valley PI NE, 55901)

### **Enormous Africa**

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY , 7p: This study group provides opportunity to learn about and utilize the incredible diversity and rich culture of the continent of Africa. We will also come to know more about some of its breathtaking landscapes, natural resources that benefit the whole world, and Traditional African Religion that many indigenous people adhere to.

Let's get together twice a month and have fun expanding our understanding not only about rich and remarkable African values, but also to see the wonders of what God is doing in Africa.  
Please email [Jerry Locula](mailto:jlocula@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.  
jlocula@gmail.com

### **Social Action Team**

FIRST MONDAYS 6p: The Peace Social Action Team meets monthly to find ways that Peace United can help out and support our community. make PEACE UNITED what it is by engaging in work and ministry of justice and peace. Through your financial gifts and the amazing talents of so many, our Peace members and ministry reach beyond the walls of our church to transform lives and embody works of inclusion and advocacy. Social Action supports:

- Sanctuary Church
- Hawthorne Helps
- Channel One
- Family Promise
- Project Legacy
- Women's Shelter
- Anti-Racism initiatives
- NAMI support
- Jefferson School support
- Highway Clean Up
- Rochester Pride Sponsorship and Booth



# PATHWAYS

SUNDAYS, 9:15a

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](http://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.

Sunday, December 17, 2023: The Story of Christmas- "Away In A Suitcase" and Password Game Photo Credit: Jody Morbeck



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

	NOV 2023	YEAR-TO-DATE	NOV 2022
Pledges budgeted	\$ 32,500	\$ 357,500	\$35,167
Pledges received	\$ 28,962	\$ 308,441	\$30,137
Difference	<b>-\$ 3,438</b>	<b>-\$ 49,059</b>	<b>-\$5,030</b>

Pledges for the month were ahead of last month—that makes 2 months in a row! We were down from budget by **-\$3,438** and YTD are down **-\$49,059** from budget. Compared to last year, we are down by **-\$1,175** for the month and **-\$33,692** for the year.

As for other income, this is the bright spot of our budget. We are ahead by \$2,632 and \$21,275 YTD. Compared to last year, we are ahead this year by \$1,612 for the month and \$32,090 for the year.

Our total income for the month is ahead by \$47, but still down YTD by **-\$27,263**. Compared to last year, we are ahead by \$1,356, but still haven't gotten ahead of last year by **-\$1,001**.

All in all, being short of Total Income of **-\$27,263** is not bad when you compare it to our Pledged Income being down by **-\$49,000**. We have been fortunate to make up the difference by \$22,000 from Misc Income and interest from the fire reimbursement funds that we were able to draw interest on while the funds sat in the bank.

Our expenses for the month were over budget by \$1,772. This had to do primarily from the purchase of a much needed new outside entrance door to the kitchen. Another bright spot of our budget is that overall expenses YTD are down by \$18,259. Compared to last year, our expenses are over last year month to date by \$8,571 and YTD by \$13,629.

The bottom line for the month was over budget by \$1,774 and remains over budget YTD by \$9,003. Compared to last year, we are over this year by \$7,214 for the month and \$13,894 YTD.

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

## January Birthdays

We celebrate with those in our church family who have birthdays this month:

### January

- 01** Ron Davis, Matt Siewert
- 02** Libby Sunnock
- 03** Annie Ely
- 04** Toryn Rabehl
- 05** Tom DeYoung
- 06** Ruth Larson
- 11** Melissa Kloempken
- 13** Jen Sadler
- 14** Kim Koch-Sullivan
- 15** Eric Franck
- 18** Betty Allen, Maurice Geiger, Cindy Smith
- 19** Megan Poterucha
- 20** Jennifer Bradt
- 21** Richard Berg, Sonja Hoag
- 22** David Rueb
- 23** Nancy Miller, Cindy Tupper
- 25** Bonnie Lenz
- 27** Craig Diekvoss
- 28** Ryan Hollar
- 29** Don Solomon
- 30** Dolores Koelsch

