

OLIVE BRANCH

PEACE  CHURCH

April 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEATURED EVENTS

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES/FAMILY PROMISE

JOHN PAVLOVITZ MAY 3RD

DRAG QUEEN BINGO

FINANCIAL UPDATE & BIRTHDAYS

The Spark

think · create · reflect



What's this? Something new at Peace? No... This place never changes! Right? Since I started working at Peace, very little has remained the same. Covid came, went, came back, left again, and continues to pop up when we least expect it. Pastor Paul announced his retirement and (thankfully) decided to stick around a bit longer. We replaced the pews with chairs, laid some new carpet, and spruced up everything we could after the fire in 2022. Peace is always changing, growing, and evolving—challenging you and us on staff to find creative, engaging ways to experience and live our faith together.

Enter: The Spark. On Wednesdays in April and May, The Spark will, well, spark your spirituality in everyday interactions and from everyday sources. You don't need a Holy Bible or a beautiful sanctuary to experience God at work. You just need something to spark your imagination. Dig deeper into the lyrics of a classic rock song to hear a message. "It doesn't make a difference if we make it or not. We've got each other, and that's a lot for love." ("Living on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi)

Challenge your beliefs by reading a news article from a source with which you disagree, and contemplate your own spin on the topic. "How FDA's regulations around mifepristone have changed" (CNN) and "Mifepristone access is coming before the US Supreme Court. How safe is this abortion pill?" (Fox News).

Put yourself into someone else's shoes, and recall what has shaped you and everyone around you as you read Jamaica Kincaid's short story "Girl."

Thanks to you, Peace is a place to take risks and try new things. Take a chance on a new spiritual experience. Check out The Spark. Get uncomfortable. Spark your curiosity.

The Spark will run for six **Wednesdays from 6-6:30p beginning April 10.**



Dylon Starr

Director of Programming and Music



CALENDAR

April



MONDAY 1: Social Action 6p, Peace Room

TUESDAY 2: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22; Race Forward 6:30p, Zoom

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

THURSDAY 4: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room

FRIDAY 5: Channel One Volunteering 9a, Channel One HQ

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

TUESDAY 9: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

WEDNESDAY 10: Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; **Spark Gathering 6p, Dwelling**

THURSDAY 11: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room; Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom

SATURDAY 13: Drag Queen Bingo set up 9a, F-Hall, Kitchen & Narthex; Drag Queen Bingo 4p & 6p

SUNDAY 14: Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service, 10:30a; Peace Picnic: Picnic and Puzzles 12p, F-Hall; Rochester Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm;

TUESDAY 16: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22; Race Forward 6:30p, Zoom

WEDNESDAY 17: : Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Spark Gathering 6p, Dwelling; Church Council 7p, Peace Room

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

FRIDAY 19: Paint and Pinot 6p, F-Hall

SATURDAY 20: Paint and Pinot 2p, F-Hall

SUNDAY 21: Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service, 10:30a; Rochester Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm

TUESDAY 23: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

TUESDAY 23: One Day Choir Taylor Swift's "I Knew You Were Trouble" 6p, Choir Rm

WEDNESDAY 24: Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Spark Gathering 6p, Dwelling

THURSDAY 25: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room; Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom

SUNDAY 28: Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall; Worship Service 10:30a; Teen Baking Auction 11:30a, F-Hall

TUESDAY 30: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22; Race Forward 6:30p, Zoom



Flower Arranging Class on March 23, 2024

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

- 1: Channel One Volunteering
- 2: Fantastic Flowers 7p
- 3-5: John Pavlovitz Visit
- 3: John Pavlovitz Presentation
- 5: Lemonade Day Fundraiser for Pride
- 9: Enormous Africa

- 11: One Day Choir: "Stacy's Mom" by Fountains of Wayne
- 18: Rochester Pride
- 19: Pancakes for Pride
- 22: African Unity Meal
- 23: Piano & Voice Recital

FEATURED EVENTS



"Purple Sky"

Paint and Pinot

APRIL 19 & 20- Anyone can paint! With artist Josie Bauza as the instructor, painters of all ages and abilities will create their masterpieces. All materials are included with your \$30 admission.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 7p: "Purple Sky"

\$30 admission, \$10 corking fee to bring your own wine, open to all ages (must be 21+ to drink wine), instruction available in English and Spanish



"Minnesota Nice"

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2p: "Minnesota Nice"

\$30 admission, this is a dry event, open to all ages, instruction available in English and Spanish

Link to tickets: <https://bit.ly/3w7Dazk>



April Drama

BEGINNING SUNDAY, APRIL 6: Get dramatic with us! Want to give acting a try? Love causing a big scene? Closeted thespian? Join Peace's first mini drama. Rehearse every Sunday in April from 11:30-12:30, and perform at our 10:30 service on April 28. Sign up online. Open to actors and wannabes of all ages. <https://forms.gle/HD9B2PnTfPBY62G9>

Picnics at Peace— Picnic and Puzzles

SUNDAY, APRIL 14. 12-1p: Pack a lunch and join the fun! Picnics at Peace bring the community together for a fun meal and an opportunity to chat and play together.

One Day Choir: "I Knew You Were Trouble"

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 6-8:30p: Do you love to sing but can't commit to a weekly rehearsal? Join us for just one afternoon to make great music. This month's song is Taylor Swift's "I Knew You Were Trouble" Sign up here: bit.ly/3wH94CX

Teen Baking Auction

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 11:30a: Brownies! Cake! Pie! Cookies! Support the missions important to the teenagers at Peace by bidding at Peace's Teen Baking Auction. Buyer beware: these baked goods will be delicious!



Fantastic Flowers

SATURDAY MAY 2, 7p: Get your hands dirty and make an amazing gift for yourself or someone you love! Michelle Moe, owner, Flowers & More Stewartville and her business partner Jered Gehling will teach you the skills you need to create a beautiful flower arrangement for any occasion. Flowers, greens, vase, and shears provided. \$30 admission, \$10 corking fee to bring your own wine, open to all ages (must be 21+ to drink wine)

Link to tickets: <https://bit.ly/481Lcaj>

John Pavlovitz

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 7p: Fresh off the April release of his new book *Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending*, John will lead us in conversations about how we can wisely and boldly leverage our lives for the people and causes that matter to us. Link to John Pavlovitz website: <https://>

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

March 4, 2024 – April 12, 2024

Peace UCC provides 3 scholarships through our website:
<https://www.peacechurchucc.org/scholarships> Below are the details.

Allen Carl Schroedel Memorial Scholarship

- students enrolled in an accredited academic or vocational program
- emphasis on (but not limited to) fields of religion, computer science, medicine and arts

Jonathan David Trachsel Memorial Scholarship

- students enrolled in a Rochester, MN High School
- those attending an accredited academic program preparing to work in the fields of religion, dentistry, or medicine

Virginia & Don Penz Memorial Scholarship

- students enrolled in a Rochester, MN High School

[Questions? Contact Debby](#)

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Family Promise: New Year New Home Fundraiser



Peace Teens and Social Action team have come together to create a fun and meaningful way to support Family Promise as they work to secure a new home to house the multiple families that they support. Family Promise is planning renovations to an existing building. These renovations and all of the furnishings will require funding!

On Sunday mornings, teens and adults will be set up in the narthex and ready to take donations toward their goal of raising \$10,000 by the end of the year. Please donate what you are able; Enough for a can of paint? Enough to purchase a toy for their family play room? Maybe even enough for some furniture! No donation is too big or too small.

If you would like to donate digitally, please scan the QR code or follow this link: <https://bit.ly/43FaaM8>

Questions? Email [Linda Bradley](#)



FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU LOVE

Featuring Author, Pastor, and Activist

JOHN PAVLOVITZ

Friday, May 3, 7p

Join John Pavlovitz for an honest community conversation about all the people and things that are worth fighting for.

PEACE UNITED · 1503 2ND AVE NE, 55906



Join John Pavlovitz for an honest community conversation about all the people and things that are worth fighting for.

Friday, May 3 at Peace United, 1503 2nd Ave NE, 55904
5:30- 6:45: Meet and Greet
7p: Presentation
Book signing and social hour immediately following

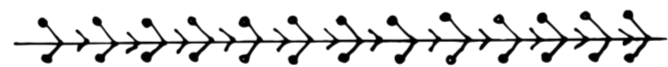
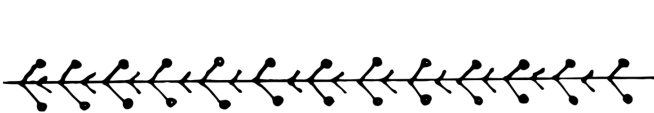
“These are difficult, exhausting days. With all we've lost individually and collectively in recent years, there is so much still worth fighting for:

A rapidly heating planet.
A fractured nation teetering on the edge of implosion.
An American Church still afflicted white supremacy.
Decades of human and civil rights that are rapidly evaporating.
Already vulnerable people facing greater adversity.
Your treasured relationships fractured by tribalism.
The brave but exhausted human being staring back at you in the mirror. “



RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKETS TODAY!!

Scan the QR Code or go to: <https://bit.ly/4cOd7y7>



Living Garden, thanks to Dawn and Scott Bradley





SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 4p & 7p: The Grand Drag Legacy Show! This special edition of Drag Queen Bingo stars four local queens featured in artist Joseph Alexander's series of hand painted portraits, "The Grand Drag Legacy." Up to \$500 in cash prizes is up for grabs!

This is your chance to see the incredible performances of queens, Sidonia Dudval , Jayda Cline, Gosh Alice Jones, and Anita Tiara

Tickets on sale , online only; \$25 at the door. This event sells out; get your tickets while you still can.
Tickets: <https://bit.ly/3lCkuug>

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 (homemade treats welcome!) that can be sold during the show.

Link to sign up. <https://signup.com/go/zZsAFO>



Scenes from Sunday, March 3, 2024
Photo credit: Jody Morbeck

FINANCIAL UPDATE

	FEB 2024	YEAR-TO-DATE	FEB 2023
Pledges budgeted	\$ 32,500	\$ 65,000	\$ 32,500
Pledges received	\$ 27,012	\$ 56,130	\$ 34,667
Difference	-\$ 5,488	-\$ 8,870	\$ 2,167

April Birthdays

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

April

- 05** John Franks
- 06** Laura Thompson,
Marie Wilson
- 07** Mildred Lilleskov
- 08** Greg Trachsel
- 09** Jane Batterson,
Molly Berg
- 11** Everett Johnson,
Ben Winters
- 13** Jocelyn Tupper
- 14** Ryan Walton
- 16** Karl Rist
- 17** Tammy Rider
- 18** Daniel Kronemann,
Allan Vrieze
- 19** Dale Ely
- 23** Mary Ely
- 24** Jean Boese
- 25** Ellen Rebstock
- 29** Mallory Allen
- 30** Cooper Osowski,
Dominic Osowski

Our pledged gifts for February came in below budget again by -\$5,488 and -\$7,655 less than February 2023. The positive is that our non-pledged gifts for February were \$1,524 over budget and \$2,091 more than February 2023.

Other income, for the month, was ahead of budget by \$658; however, total income for February came in at -\$3,306 under budget.

Good news is that the expenses for February were \$9,613 below budget, giving us a positive net income of \$2,265 vs a budget of -\$4,043.

At the end of February our
 General Operating account is \$ 35,951.76
 General Operating Savings is \$196,136.49
 CD account is at \$75,000
 Capital Funds Account is at \$28,927.69 (we can cover our building mortgage for the year)

Please contact Brian Osowski (bosowski15@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



Scenes from Sunday, March 10, 2024
 Photo credit: Jody Morbeck

