

A Note From John Pavlovitz

A Word to The Weird

The first time I shared with a pastor friend that I'd been invited by a church in Rochester, Minnesota to walk alongside them for a year and explore ways they could more creatively and courageously embody the love of Jesus, he was curious but skeptical. After listening to me share the conversations I'd already had at that point with the staff and Visioning Team about what Peace aspired to do and be, he said, "Well, I hope it works out but they'll probably be what almost all churches are."

When I asked him what that meant, he replied, "They all say they want to embrace change and to be bold and do what they've never done, but once that process starts they'll begin to resist out of fear or because they're losing things they love. Eventually they will revert back to the familiar and safe."

"Not Peace." I said. "Peace is different."

I didn't know how right I was.

Peace is different. Over the past six months, it has been a joy spending time with you all in your homes, at gatherings in the community, and on the campus. Over and over I've been moved by the compassion and the spirit of adventure here. It is exceedingly rare.

For the last decade I've traveled this country both in person and online, and though all churches aspire to love radically, most don't want to do the hard work of self-examination to make sure others are truly experiencing that love. You all do the work here and you should celebrate that.

I wanted to thank you for being weird and wonderfully so. It's a beautiful (if not always easy thing) to emulate Jesus these days.

Be encouraged.

John





CALENDAR

February Events



THURSDAY 1: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room; Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom

FRIDAY 2: Channel One Volunteers 9a, Channel One HQ

SUNDAY 4: Communion Sunday: Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service with Communion, 10:30a

MONDAY 5: Social Action 6p, Peace Room

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

WEDNESDAY 7: Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall

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

FRIDAY 9: Noche de Amor y Amistad - Evening of Love and Friendship 6:30p, F-Hall and Narthex

SUNDAY 11: Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service with Communion, 10:30a;

TUESDAY 13: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22

WEDNESDAY 14: Ash Wednesday Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Ash Wednesday Service 6p, Sanctuary; Church Council 7p, Peace Room

Wednesday, February 14, 6p
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday and our journey into Lent with a worship service including Holy Communion and the imposition of Ashes

THURSDAY 15: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room; Card Sharks 6:30p, Narthex; Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom

SUNDAY 18: Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service with Communion, 10:30a; Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm; Blanket Fort Night 6p, F-Hall

TUESDAY 20: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22; Race Forward 6:30p, Zoom

WEDNESDAY 21: : Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall; Church Council 7p, Peace Room

THURSDAY 22: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Rm

SUNDAY 25: Pathways 9:15a, F-Hall all ages; Worship Service with Communion, 10:30a; Rainbow Choir 1p, Choir Rm

TUESDAY 27: Men's Fellowship, 7a, F-Hall; Knitters Group 10a, Peace Room; Beverage and Bible 5p, Tavern 22;

WEDNESDAY 28: Community Meal Night 5:15p, F-Hall;

THURSDAY 29: Women's Fellowship, 8:30a, Peace Room; Card Sharks 6:30p, Narthex; Enormous Africa 7p, Zoom



LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH

1: Channel One Volunteering
 8 & 9: Paint and Pinot
 14 & 28: Enormous Africa
 23: Fantastic Flowers: Flower Arranging Class 4p
 24: One Day Choir: "Rolling in the Deep" 3p
 29: Good Friday Service 6p
 31: Easter Sunday
 31: Teen Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

APRIL

5: Channel One Volunteering
 11 & 25: Enormous Africa
 13: Drag Queen Bingo 4p & 7p
 19 & 20: Paint and Pinot
 24: One Day Choir: "Born This Way" 6p

FEATURED EVENTS

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/41LtOVF>



Moving Mondays

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 5, 7a: Get moving to improve your fitness and well-being. Join us every Monday morning for a healthy start to the week by getting a jump on your daily step goal.



Bring a friend! Our indoor track is great for individuals or small groups. When the weather permits, we'll move our walks to the path around nearby Silver Lake. February's theme is Leap, Laugh, Love. For every 5000 steps you walk, Tickle the Frog catches a fly!

Piano or Voice Lessons

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 6: Playing the piano and singing are two of the easiest musical talents to share with others. Learn from Peace United's Director of Programming and Music, Dylon Starr, for 30 minutes each week. Lessons will be customized to meet individual learner needs. Money earned from these lessons will benefit the music and programming ministry of the church. Link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/3S2xptO>

Blanket Fort Night

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 4p: Build the coolest, biggest blanket fort that you can in Peace's Fellowship Hall! Bring blankets, sheets, and pillows. Light snacks and a movie on the big screen will be provided.

Rochester Rainbow Choir

RETURNING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 1p: Do you want to make great music in a safe and fun space? Come sing with the Rochester Rainbow Choir! Rehearsals are Sundays from 1-3 p.m. at Peace beginning February 18. The next concert is at Rochester Pride, May 18 at noon.

Rochester Rainbow Choir Concert, January 13th



FINANCIAL UPDATE

	DEC 2023	YEAR-TO-DATE	DEC 2022
Pledges budgeted	\$ 32,500	\$ 390,000	\$35,167
Pledges received	\$52,199	\$360,640	\$39,199
Difference	19,699	-\$29,360	\$ 4,032

Pledged gifts for Dec came in very well! We ended up being \$19,699 over budget and \$13,000 over Dec 2022. YTD, our pledges fell short of budget by -\$29,360 and were down from 2022 by **-\$20,692**. Our non pledged gifts for Dec were \$5,900 over budget and we were finished ahead of budget by \$6,420.

For the month, our other income was ahead of budget by \$4,475 and finished ahead of budget for the year by \$25,750!

Our total income for the month was \$30,073 over budget and we finished \$3,537 ahead of budget. Compared to last year, we finished \$18,480 ahead.

The expenses for Dec were \$1,643 under budget. YTD, we finished \$19,903 under budget.

Compared to last year, our expenses were over by \$15,732.

Our bottom line for Dec was \$32,443 better than budget. YTD, we finished \$23,441 better than budget and \$2748 better than 2022. Budgeted loss for 2023 was -

\$39,221. Actual loss for 2023 was **-\$15,780** which is pretty good considering pledged gifts were down **-\$28,633**.

Thanks to a great Dec in pledged and non-pledged gifts, we finished the year very well.

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 this month:

February

- 01** Michael Maloney, Sean Molitor
Bev Moravec, Casey Trusty
- 02** Jennifer Schroeder
- 07** Michelle Brandenburg
Schroeder
- 10** Tonia Ely, Russell Koelsch,
Fred Trachsel
- 11** Ben Sullivan
- 12** Benjamin Walton
- 14** Steven Berg
- 17** Kim Davis
- 19** Ivy Kuliniski, Ben Wieland
- 20** Emmaus McLaurin
- 21** Scott Bradley,
Katherine Gordon
- 22** Pat Lande
- 23** Joel Gordon II
- 25** Helen Corfits
- 27** Jeff Hanson

SAVE THE DATE!

Paint and Pinot

MARCH 8 & 9- 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.

"New Beginnings" Friday, March 8, 7p | Wine selections available or bring your own for a \$10 corking fee.

"Spring Spirit" Saturday, March 9, 2p | Non-alcoholic beverages available for a donation or bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.





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

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, dylon@peacechurchucc.org

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

If God is Love Don't be a Jerk: John Pavlovitz

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 6:00P
DON'T STOP BELIEVING
Chapters 1,2,3

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6:00P
WHAT'S GOD GOT TO DO WITH IT?
Chapters 4,5,6

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 6:00P
OH YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH!
Chapters 7,8,9

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 6:00P
WHO ARE YOU? Who Who Who
Chapters 10,11,12

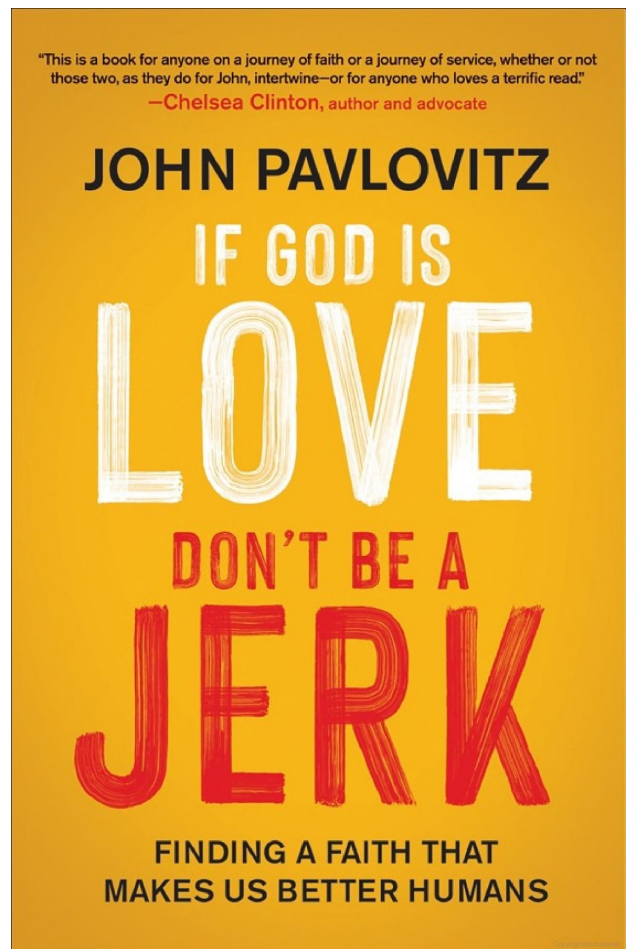
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 6:00P
ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE?
Chapters 13,14,15

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 6:00P
TAKE ME TO CHURCH!
Chapters 16,17,18

Copies of this book are available at the Welcome Desk for \$20 each or can be ordered through the following links:

John Pavlivitz Design.: <https://bit.ly/495WH1i>

Amazon: <https://bit.ly/3OaaCLO>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We all know that together we are always a better Peace!

There are many great opportunities to shine your light as a volunteer on Sunday mornings.

Please consider signing up for one or more of the following volunteer opportunities.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Please sign up for the date that you are able to host Fellowship Time immediately following the service. Duties include making coffee, providing snacks and cleaning up.

Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/3R1s4Cj>

WELCOME CREW!

Sundays 10a- Join a team to assist as an intentional greeter on Sunday mornings. One Sunday a month you will work with a team to greet members and welcome guests. There are instructions/training on what you will need to do. If interested email Lynn Alcock lynnalcock6123@gmail.com

SUNDAY OFFERING ATTENDANTS

Help out on Sundays with getting the offering plates passed around and collected.

Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/GWETQnD>

TECH TEAM POWERPOINT VOLUNTEER

Advance the PowerPoint during service

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3RJqSEn>

Questions? [Ask Clare](#)



Channel One Volunteer Team

Feb 2, 9-11a- The Peace Church Channel One team is back in action! Join the team on the first Friday of the month 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 Joan Leof or Jody Morbeck.

Questions? [Contact Joan Leof](mailto:jleof@charter.net) jleof@charter.net.



Photo Credit: Jody Morbeck
January Channel One Volunteers



THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL



Right here, in our community

Jefferson School Support

Peace is proud to partner with our neighborhood school to provide healthy snacks for students and donations that might help families in need.

Below is a list of suggested items:

- Individually wrapped snacks (chips, crackers, granola bars, etc). Non-peanut snacks are needed too (fruit cups, applesauce, Nutri grain bars, etc).
- They would also like to have gift cards available (gas, Walmart) for those families in need.

Donations can be left in the bin located by the Welcome Desk. Please leave the gift cards with Clare.



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 guest.

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

Community Meal Nights

WEDNESDAYS, 5:15p- 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.

Peace Groups have taken one Wednesday a month to "host" a community Meal. The teams are as follows:

- TEAM 1: Men's Group (1st Wednesday)
- TEAM 2: Social Action (2nd Wednesday)
- TEAM 3: Church Council (3rd Wednesday)
- TEAM 4: Women's Fellowship (4th Wednesday)

Some of these groups still need 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)

