

Peace United Church of Christ  
1503 2nd Ave NE  
Rochester, MN 55906

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Peace United  
Church of Christ**  
1503 2nd Ave NE,  
Rochester, MN  
55906  
507-282-6117

[www.peacechurchucc.org](http://www.peacechurchucc.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/peaceuccrochester>

An Open and  
Affirming (ONA)  
Congregation

**Vision: A safe and  
inclusive church  
living God's radical  
message**

Communion the first  
Sunday of the month

8:30am Traditional Worship  
9:45am Faith Formation  
11am Contemporary Worship

Nursery care available from  
8:30 to 12pm on Sundays

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR  
UPDATES:  
[www.peacechurchucc.org](http://www.peacechurchucc.org)

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Check the on-line version  
of the Olive Branch to see  
pictures of our January  
events

# Olive Branch

February 2018

## Ponderings of Pastor Paul ...

I am writing this on the heels of the 2018 Annual Meeting! As many of you know I am an "odd duck" when it comes to meetings (and probably many other ways as well) :-). I really don't like meetings. So many of my days are filled with meetings about various things. While I know that they are sometimes necessary and have value, I really don't like meetings that do not accomplish anything, nor have any purpose. But I have to say (and this where I am an "odd duck") that I have always loved Church Annual Meetings. Some of my colleagues in ministry will strongly disagree with me (in fact many of them loathe their annual meetings), but I think church annual meetings should be a celebration! And it was a celebration of ministry on Sunday, January 21! I am so thankful for the joyful, joyfilled, and affirming atmosphere that was present for our meeting. It was a longer than normal meeting... but one filled with good news, anticipation, joy, vision, and a strong look to the future of this growing congregation.

The vitality of this meeting was formed by the incredible commitment of our Peace UCC Church Council who has provided many hours of keen leadership and desire to provide and support impacting ministry, both for our members and those outside of our walls now and for the future. Due to their vision, we have been able to develop a dynamic ministry plan that will have lasting influence. Because of this leadership, the core of the meeting was the moving current of a new culture of connectedness in, with, and for our ministry together. Our ministry is about reaching out and welcoming/embracing others in all aspects of our ministry... and assuring all that there is a safe place to be – no matter who they are or where they are on their life's journey. We are, and will be, engaging with others through LISTOS, and the potential new private Rochester Studio Art School who will be renting space from us. We will be embracing others through the new Peace UCC APP and our CONNECT GROUPS. We will be welcoming the stranger through our new outreach initiative, our new WELCOME TEAM, and our new alternative 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service. These new forms of ministry, along-side our already existing ministries, provides a comprehensive focus on our ministry together.

Now that we have developed and presented what our NEEDS FOR MINISTRY are as a faith community, each of us is called to find ways of supporting all of our ministries through our time-talent and treasure. Peace United Church of Christ has, for a number of years, provided wide-ranging ministry to meet the needs, desires, and expectations of our faith community and the community around us. For us to grow further in our ministries, we need to expand our staff support to provide our continued high-quality leadership. To continue our current ministries and expand to new ways of connecting with others, the Peace UCC congregation voted unanimously to create and hire for a new position, the "Director of Intergenerational Ministries". This person will create, develop, and oversee many aspects of integrating ministry with children, youth, young adults, and other adults of the congregation. To accomplish the creation of this new position, the Council recommended (and the congregation approved) that if an additional \$25,000 is pledged/gifted by the members of the church by April 1 (EASTER) we can proceed with hiring for this position. This position will begin in June or July of this year.

**\$240 PER GIVING UNIT** – We are challenging every member/giving unit of our congregation to help us meet the NEEDS of Peace UCC and consider this additional gift of \$240 to support this position. That is \$20/month or \$5.00/week. We are asking those who have already pledged to increase their current gift/pledge by this amount. We realize that there are some who are not able to pledge any more... but also know that others can contribute more above that amount. We have already received 2 gifts @ \$1000 each for this position. Others have also contributed \$500, \$240, and others less. Whatever one can offer is appreciated. For those who do not participate in pledging, or have not contributed financially... this is an opportune time to direct your gift of \$240/year to Peace UCC for this position! If EVERYONE PARTICIPATES we will realize our goal and be able to fully meet our staffing/ministry needs! PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR GIFT and share in the vision we are called to share!

**HOW CAN YOU MAKE A PLEDGE OR SHARE YOUR GIFT?** You can either email Debby Adams at [office@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:office@peacechurchucc.org), or use the "FORMS" option on the Peace UCC APP or the "GIVING" option on the Peace UCC APP and select 'Budget Challenge - New Hire!' fund, or go to "GIVE-PLEDGE" on the Peace UCC Webpage ([www.peacechurchucc.org](http://www.peacechurchucc.org)), or mail in the enclosed pledge card.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Beth, Debby Adams, or me. I THANK YOU in advance for your gifts!

Peace,

Paul Bauch, Senior Pastor  
[pastor@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:pastor@peacechurchucc.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/paul.bauch>

Beth Rogers, Associate Pastor  
[ypastor@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:ypastor@peacechurchucc.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/rev.rog>

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES: [www.peacechurchucc.org](http://www.peacechurchucc.org)

Just so you know...

You can check our website for updates: [www.peacechurchucc.org](http://www.peacechurchucc.org)

Please submit all articles for the next issue of the Olive Branch by the **15th of the month** to the Church Office or email to [office@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:office@peacechurchucc.org).

The deadline for the bulletin is Wed at **9am every week**.

The deadline for PowerPoint announcements is **Thursdays at Noon**.

**"This is our church...we make it what it is..."**  
**February Focus: Office Supplies & Stamps**

**REMINDER....**

**Ash Wednesday Service  
Wednesday, February 14  
@ 7pm**

**Wednesday  
Taize Lenten Services  
Begins February 21  
@ 5:30pm**



In an effort to assist our congregation in understanding where our money is being spent AND educating everyone on the fundraisers / special offerings that will be happening in 2018, we have put together a "Giving Calendar". Each month we will focus on a special item to help support our church.

Look for the Giving Board each Sunday morning to see how you can help support what we do here at Peace United Church of Christ!

# FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

## Superbowl Sub Sale / Pick Up

**Sunday, February 4 ~ 9:45am - 1pm**

If you haven't submitted your sub orders, do it NOW! Superbowl subs will be available for pick up on Sunday, February 4 starting at 9:45am. The youth will be busy that morning making the freshest subs ever based on all the orders they received - and only a few extra sandwiches made. New this year will be gluten free (meat/cheese wraps) or veggie subs. Cost for all is \$5/ sandwich. All proceeds go to fund the youth summer mission trips.

## Connect Group Dinner

**Thursday, February 8 @ 6pm in Fellowship Hall**

A special dinner will be held on Thursday, February 8 for those who signed up. It's still not too late to get 'connected'! Stop by or call (507.282.6117) the Welcome Desk to get included. An invite with more information will be sent out to participants.

## Samaritan Bethany Presentation

**Sunday, February 11 @ 9:45am in Fellowship Hall**

We are excited to have Sue Knutson and Dean Stenehjelm from Samaritan Bethany come and share information about Samaritan Bethany on Sunday, February 11 at 9:45am. Some many not even be aware of the historical connection we have with Samaritan Bethany!

## Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday, February 14 @ 7pm**

Our Lenten journey to Easter begins on Valentine's Day with Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate the intinction of ashes as well as Holy Communion.

## Adult Gathering - Movie & Discussion

**Sunday, February 18 @ 1:30pm**

In recognition of Black History month, we will be showing the movie Selma. This movie reenacts the epic march from Selma to Montgomery which culminated in President Johnson signing the voting Rights Act of 1965 - one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. Discussion will follow the movie. This is a great opportunity for discussions on one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement and how much work we STILL need to do!!

## Wednesday Lenten Services

**Begins Wednesday, February 21 @ 5:30pm**

We will focus our Wednesday Lenten services with Taize. This 30-minute prayer service consists of meditative singing and periods of silence.

## ISAIAH - Minnesota Governor Candidate's Forum

**Thursday, February 22 @ 7pm**

Initiated by ISAIAH, this forum will provide time to hear from 7 of the candidates for Governor and is being held right here at Peace!!



# hili and Bread Cook-Off



# Annual Meeting ~ Soup/C



## THIS IS US.... THE UCC!!!!

What is UCCU? United Church of Christ University!



I realized after a number of conversations that many folks do not know a great deal about the history of Peace United Church of Christ, the development of the United Church of Christ, nor of our ministries and theology of the United Church of Christ. During worship in February and March we will be providing messages and opportunities to learn about various topics and focus of our ministry here at Peace UCC and the wider church. Through the 7 weeks we will learn and better understand who we have been, who we are, and who we are visioning and poised to be. THIS IS US.... The UCC!  
~ Pastor Paul

- FEBRUARY 4 **THIS IS US.... History of the United Church of Christ and Peace United Church of Christ**
- FEBRUARY 11 **THIS IS US.... Our Partnership with Samaritan Bethany**  
*(Sue Knutson, Mission Leader/CEO & Dean A. Stenehjem, Foundation and Planned Giving Team Leader will present in worship and a presentation @ 9:45am)*
- FEBRUARY 14 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- FEBRUARY 18 **THIS IS US.... The UCC & Peace UCC - OPEN and AFFIRMING (ONA)**
- FEBRUARY 25 **THIS IS US.... The UCC & Peace UCC - ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY**  
*(Stevi Hallisy will provide a Mission Moment at both services)*
- MARCH 4 **THIS IS US.... The UCC & Peace UCC - ADVOCACY**  
*(Rae Dunn will provide a Mission Moment in worship and presentation @ 9:45am)*
- MARCH 11 **THIS IS US.... The UCC & Peace UCC - 5 for 5 Mission Offerings**
- MARCH 18 **THIS IS US.... The Minnesota Conference, OCWM, & Peace UCC**  
*(Rev. Shari Prestemon, Minnesota Conference Minister will preach and present between services at 9:45am)*
- MARCH 25 **PALM SUNDAY**



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Birthdays

- 1 Mike Maloney, Sean Molitor, Bev Moravec
- 3 Diane Helgerson, Tylah Peterson
- 5 Elijah Neher
- 6 Flynn MacDonald
- 7 Michelle Laughlin
- 9 Jim Lovelace, Sarah Hawkins
- 10 Fred Trachsel, Tonia Ely, Russ Koelsch
- 11 Ben Sullivan
- 12 Bruce Adams
- 13 Parker Jahnz
- 14 Steve Berg, Michael Johnson, Hannah Leof
- 15 Marianne Hockema
- 16 Mark Huyber
- 17 Jeremy Newton, Kim Davis, Evan Bennett
- 19 Ben Wieland
- 20 Glenn Lilleskov, Emmaus McLaurin
- 21 Scott Bradley, Robert Lyngholm, Katherine Gordon
- 23 Alicia Buda, Joel Gordon II, Sydney Loechler
- 25 Janice Timm, Helen Corfits
- 27 Jeff Hanson
- 28 Gavin Soto

# FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY	SERVICE	COUNCIL IN CHARGE	SPECIAL MUSIC	FELLOWSHIP LUNCH TEAM
4 Communion	8:30am	Craig Bentz	Choir of Peace	Amber Carlson's Team
	11:00am		Joy ONEVOICE	
11	8:30am	Craig Bentz	Special Music	Team Superstars!
	11:00am		Peace ONEVOICE	
18	8:30am	Craig Bentz	Choir of Peace	Team Awesome!
	11:00am		Joy ONEVOICE	
25	8:30am	Craig Bentz	Special Music	Theresa Scott-Diekvoss's Team
	11:00am		Peace ONEVOICE	

**Thank you to the outgoing Council Members,**

- Tonia Ely
- Marie Neher
- Matt Siewert
- Ben Sullivan

**Congratulations New Council Members**

- Leslie Crawley
- Wendy Nevala
- David Schmitt
- Eric Theuer

## Financial Update

December preliminaries showed us ending on a positive note. While we ended 2018 about \$2,000 better than last year, we will all need to do our part to challenge ourselves to the new opportunities that await us in 2018.

	December (preliminary)	YTD
Pledges Budgeted	\$35,417	\$425,000
Actual Pledges	\$40,752	\$402,605
Difference	<b>+5,335</b>	<b>-\$22,395</b>



**Peace ~ Inside Work Day**





## Ongoing Peace Groups

### Journey - Sunday Mornings @ 9:45am - Peace Room

(8-week gathering which involves group discussion including thoughts about the sermon or scripture from that Sunday and how the themes or ideas relate to each person's life and/or current events. Will continue every Sunday through March 18).

### Tuesday Morning Men of Peace Group @ 7am - Peace Room

(All men are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion which generally focuses on the upcoming worship scriptures.)

### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study @ 10am - Peace Room

(All women are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion, meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 10am. For additional information contact Sheila Boss)

### Tuesday Beverage & Bible @ 5pm - Glynner's Pub

(Tuesdays, from 5-6pm at Glynner's Pub [1643 Broadway Ave NJ] & we'll gather for fellowship and discussion.)

### Knitter/Crochet Groups - Tuesdays @ 10:30am - Room 105

(ALL are welcome to join us every Tuesday at 10:30am in Room 105)

### Thursday Morning Women's Group @ 7am - Peace Room

(Reading and discussing "God a Human History" by Reza Aslan. For additional information contact Anna Froehling.)

### Twice Monthly Race Forward - Dwelling @ 7pm

(Everyone is welcome to attend this group as we explore our blind spots and open up the uncomfortable discussion of race and privilege. For additional information contact Ruth Larson.)

### Miriam Ministry - Wed, Feb 28 @ 9:30am - Peace Room

(ALL WOMEN are welcome to join us for a short program and fellowship).

### Quilter's Group - Thursdays @ 10am-3pm & 1st Saturday of Month 10am-11:30am - Room 104

(For additional information contact Marie Wilson)

### Fellowship Lunches - Weekly, after the 2nd Service,

(Teams provide and prepare Fellowship luncheons for anyone wishing to stay for lunch. For more information on being a part of a Team, visit the Welcome Desk.)

**Connect Groups** - A special dinner will be held on Thursday, February 8 for those who signed. It's still not too late to get 'connected'! Stop by or call (507.282.6117) the Welcome Desk to get included. An invite with more information will be sent out to participants.



## YOUTH RELATED DATES:

- 2/4: Super Bowl Sub Sales  
12:30pm - Confirmation
- 2/18: 12:30pm - Confirmation

Additional youth announcements are sent via Snap Chat. Contact Pastor Beth if you want to be included in the group.

## Look What Else is Happening at Peace UCC...



### PICTURE TIME - FOR OUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Have you ever wondered the names of those in your Peace family? Are you new to Peace and wanted to put a name to a face? **Then say PEACE!!** It's time to get our pictorial directory up to date!! It's been 5 years since our last directory and so much has changed!!

Sign up NOW for your photography session. The photographer will be here on Feb 28 - Mar 3 and again from Mar 13 - 17. Hours are 2 - 9pm Weekdays; and 9am - 3:30pm Weekends. We need at least 20 families per day otherwise we'll have to reduce our dates.

To sign up go to: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y92btlvx/> or call the Welcome Desk (507-282-6117). Remember...there is NO sitting fee. Everyone who participates gets a free 8x10 portrait and hard-copy directory. PLUS...there is a special right now - everyone who places portrait orders gets 20% off! Pets are welcome. You can even schedule generational pictures; all members will need to schedule consecutive portrait sittings.

We will also be offering an on-line directory later. Let's make this a complete pictorial directory!

## PEACE UCC 2018 BUDGET

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21, our congregation voted to increase our Office Assistant to full time. We also had discussions on hiring a Director of Intergenerational Ministries this summer IF an additional \$25,000 can be pledged or gifted by **April 1, 2018**.

We have received a few responses toward this goal, but need your help to make this position a reality. To help us achieve this goal, and provide support for our budget, we are asking each giving unit to increase their pledge/gift an additional \$240 (average) per year. We realize some are not able to do this, but others can do more. So, please share your gifts to ensure this position becomes a reality.



To show your support for this endeavor, click [here](https://peaceucc.aware3.net/form/Q4DtRM2) to submit your pledge increase (or type this in your browser - <https://peaceucc.aware3.net/form/Q4DtRM2>); your response will go directly to Debby at church.

On

## PEACE UCC CHURCH APP

Our new Peace UCC Church App is HERE! Want a simpler way to stay connected? Wondering what is happening at Peace? Wanting to get up to the minute reminders about key items that are taking place? Download your Peace App today!!

To install:

- Ensure your device is connected to the internet / Wifi
- Text APP to 507.556.3080 then click on the link in the text response
- Click directly on the Apple icon or Android icon in the middle of the screen
- Download app received
- Click on 'near me' link
- Click on Peace Church icon
- Complete the Profile information in app
- Stay connected and read what Peace has to offer!!

If you experience any difficulties with this download, please contact Pastor Beth (ypastor@peacechurchucc.org) or Laurie DeYoung (aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)