

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1503 2ND AVE NE
ROCHESTER, MN 55906

OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

While many are excited to begin a new year, we at Peace Church were hopeful that we could bring a positive close to 2020:

A very special thank you Brian and Cheryl Winters for hosting our Nativity Story Drive Thru in December and all those who helped us prepare and make it happen (Butch and Mary Karlstad, the Schmitt Family, Tom & Laurie DeYoung, Bradd Walton and Tracy Walton and their family, Keondre Bryant, Ben Bedard, Pastor Paul, and Pastor Winston).

If you weren't able to make it out, watch the video below that David Schmitt put together—a beautiful reminder of this magical weekend.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nycqCRvq-w&t=91s>

For those who braved the 18-below windchill on Christmas Eve to sing carols in our parking lot—THANK YOU for helping us bring some Christmas magic to our souls; even a few from Buena Vista joined us from the window! And for those that took the opportunity to sit in silence in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, what a blessing it was to see you (even with masks) - it filled us with hope and love.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Debby



FAITH FORMATION
UPDATES
CALENDAR OF EVENTS /
FEATURED EVENTS
FINANCIAL UPDATE /
BIRTHDAYS

January 2021

**JANUARY IS A TIME FOR FRESH
STARTS—A TIME FOR US ALL TO
TRAVEL ANOTHER ROAD.
WHAT WILL THIS NEW YEAR
BRING? LET US GO FORWARD
TOGETHER KNOWING THAT WE
WON'T BE ALONE; EMMANUEL
— GOD WITH US. KEEP US
STRONG AND COURAGEOUS
FOR THE ROAD AHEAD.**



Images Top & Left: No room was found at the Bethlehem Inn during the Nativity Drive Thru

PEACE
CHURCH



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Welcome back Super Heroes!

I hope you all had an awesome Christmas. It's a brand-new year and that means we all have a new beginning and a fresh start at being our best superhero selves. This month we are going to be talking about **love of self**. What does it mean to love ourselves? How can we learn to feel good about ourselves in a healthy way? These are important questions for us to find out about in today's world. To learn more about this topic, we are going to be talking about David, a character in the Bible who fought a giant named Goliath. Make sure to listen to our video lessons this month so you don't miss out!

And if you haven't seen it yet, check out Episode 3 of our Peace Powers story. You can find the link on our Peace Faith Formation Program Plan page (<https://www.peacechurchucc.org/ffprogramplan>).

Happy New Year!
Pastor Winston

Children (PreK – 5th Grade):

Week 1: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Our True Self)

Week 2: 1 Samuel 17—parental discretion advised (Believing in Yourself and Having Courage)

Week 3: 1 Samuel 17—parental discretion advised (Responding to Bullies)

Week 4: 1 Samuel 17—parental discretion advised (Preparing Ourselves)

Teens (6th – 12th Grade):

Watch for the next Virtual Wellness Wednesday event—details will be sent by Tracy.

February Mission Box Pick Up, Sunday, January 24, 11:30a-12:30p: Drive up to the church to pick up your February mission boxes.

Mark February 14 on your calendars for a special community mission we have planned.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For November, Peace had a total income of \$55,843.53 vs a budget of \$55,919.08 or \$75 unfavorable to plan (not a misprint). Pledged giving remained strong as well as recording the PPP grant funding that Peace received. Total expenses for November were \$29,536 vs a budget of \$44,451. However, due to timing of some items that will post in December, this variance will come down a bit. We continue to be blessed with your ongoing support of Peace church. Please contact Eric Theuer, Financial Liaison, if you have any questions.

	NOV 2020	YEAR-TO-DATE	NOV 2019
Pledges budgeted	\$51,250	\$383,750	\$36,958
Pledges received	\$35,558	\$355,818	\$51,642
Difference	-\$15,692	-\$27,932	\$14,684

For those using offering envelopes, the 2021 envelopes have arrived. You may pick up yours at the church office M-F from 8:30a—12:00p.

Image Below: The Sanctuary allowed a place for a few to sit in peaceful silence for Christmas and to light a candle of hope.



January Birthdays

We celebrate with those in our church family who have birthdays in January.

- 01** Ron Davis, Matt Siewert
- 02** Libby Sunnock
- 03** Annie Ely
- 04** Jared Liebenow, Toryn Rabehl
- 05** Kourtnei Alcock, Tom DeYoung
- 06** Ruth Larson
- 10** Anela Newton, Ian Thompson
- 11** Sage Janusz, Winston Janusz, Melissa Kloempken
- 13** Jen Sadler
- 14** Kim Koch-Sullivan, Nancy Zimmerman
- 15** Eric Franck
- 16** Shaelyn Wells
- 17** Aaron Holst
- 18** Betty Allen, Maurice Geiger
- 19** Megan Poterucha
- 20** Jennifer Bradt
- 21** Richard Berg, Sonja Hoag
- 22** David Rueb
- 23** Nancy Miller
- 25** Bonnie Lenz
- 27** Craig Diekvoss, Kenzie Gertner
- 28** Ryan Hollar
- 29** Don Solomon, Dolores Koelsch
- 31** Leslie Crawley

Image Left: Displays from the Nativity Story Drive Thru were brought to our Peace Church grounds for the community to enjoy.

CALENDAR

January Events

SUNDAY 3: Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a

WEDNESDAY 6: ONEVOICE service recordings, 5:15p

THURSDAY 7: Sunday service recording, 10a

SATURDAY 9: Ludemann/Langholz Wedding, 3p

SUNDAY 10: Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a

TUESDAY 12: Faith Formation Leaders Virtual Meeting, 7:30p

WEDNESDAY 13: Sunday service recording, 10a; Teen Well-Being Wednesday, 7p

SUNDAY 17: Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a

WEDNESDAY 20: Sunday Service Recording, 10a

SUNDAY 24: Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a; February Mission Box Pick-Up, 12-1p

WEDNESDAY 27: Sunday service recording, 10a

SUNDAY 31: Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a

MEN OF PEACE
Every Tuesday, 7a
(ZOOM)

BEVERAGE AND BIBLE
Every Tuesday, 5p
(ZOOM)

RACE FORWARD
Every Other Tuesday, 7p
(ZOOM; Jan 5, 19)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Every Thursday, 7a
(ZOOM)

ENORMOUS AFRICA
DISCUSSION
Every other Saturday, 6p
(ZOOM; Jan 9, 23)

Celebrating Christmas

Images Left:

A small group braved 18-below windchill on Christmas Eve to share the Christmas message through scripture and carols—we even had some join from a Buena Vista window!



FEATURED EVENTS

February Mission Box Pick Up

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 11:30a-12:30p —All Super Heroes—come by church to pick up your February mission boxes. Pastor Winston will be here, and you may see Brick Brain! Keep those super powers of yours ready!!

January Annual Meeting

Since we aren't able to gather in person, our normal Annual Meeting will not take place. Look for year-end financial information and a proposed budget that is being sent out early in January. Within that mailing are instructions on how to submit your vote via email or via phone. Once it is safe to gather together, we plan to have an in-person celebration meeting/meal to provide an opportunity to do all other necessary work, recognize our leadership and hear plans for our future.

Sunday Virtual Fellowship

SUNDAYS, 10-11a —Sunday mornings just don't seem the same without seeing everyone in worship AND during our fellowship time or Fellowship lunches. So, we have decided to do the next best thing and have ZOOM virtual fellowship time every Sunday morning. There is no agenda for this gathering, just a simple time to visit and share with one another—like sitting at a very large table!! Grab a cup of coffee, juice, and your computer and join us for this time to reconnect.

You can join us via this link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89242168183?pwd=ZEc4eINKNG1La1dSNERhLOVhUWICdz09>
or log into your own zoom with these meeting details.

Meeting ID: 892 4216 8183
Passcode: 568069



Images Left / Top / Bottom:
Nativity Story Drive-Thru moments.



Image Right:
Reminder of what the Christmas season is all about.

