

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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PEACE  
CHURCH



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# OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

FAITH FORMATION  
UPDATES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS /  
FEATURED EVENTS

FINANCIAL UPDATES /  
BIRTHDAYS

April  
2021

Happy Easter!

When the COVID pandemic became real one year ago in 2020, we had to make some very difficult decisions about what to do about worship, study groups, faith formation, gatherings, and meetings. It even caused us to make the radical choice to suspend in-person worship for Holy Week and Easter. We hoped that this was only a short-lived event and that we would be gathering for worship in only a few short months. That reality did not occur. As the pandemic continued, the leadership of Peace Church faithfully made the decisions to delay our in-person gatherings until it was safe for us all to come back together in-person.

Now, a year later (2021), we are still not worshipping in-person. Many of our study groups, meetings, and gatherings occur, but they are virtual through ZOOM or other social media platforms. Our children and teen ministry has continued but in new and unique ways. Thanks to the creativity of your Peace Church staff, the skills of our amazing tech team, and the strong leadership of the church we have been able to maintain and provide powerful on-line worship services, faith formation programs, and engaging study and dialogue groups! Thanks to all who have been able to keep the ministry of Peace Church alive and well.

The Council and Staff have arduously discussed and debated (at every Council Meeting over the past year) when and how to safely begin gathering in-person for worship and other ministries of the church. We continue to seek the advice and guidance of our medical professionals to help us decide the best practices for moving forward. While there is a great desire and drive to gather for in-person worship and ministries, we want to continue providing a safe space for all. We also realize that trying to regather in-person would be restrictive to some, and our services would still be limited in participation and activity.

#### THINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE!

The leadership of Peace Church has implemented an intentional re-gathering plan for worship and gatherings. This is created to provide a safe environment for all. As one person commented, "We have provided a safe space for a year, let's not blow it now!" So, here is our systematic plan for regathering in-person:

#### REGATHERING IN-PERSON PLAN

##### WORSHIP

The Council and Staff has decided to hold OUTDOOR SERVICES (on Peace Church grounds). ALL are welcome to come and worship together in-person! These services will also be LIVE-STREAMED for those who are not able to attend. If the weather is inclement, the services will be moved into the Sanctuary and live-streamed worship. We will make the decision by Friday @ 12p (prior to each service) whether the service will outdoors or indoors.

**The OUTDOOR SERVICES will be held on:**

- **Sunday, April 4 @ 9:00a EASTER SUNDAY!**
- Sunday, May 9 @ 9:00a
- Sunday, June 13 @ 9:00a
- Sunday, July 11 @ 9:00a

## REGATHER FOR IN-PERSON INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES – August 1

If the trends continue, we are projecting/anticipating that we will be able to safely have indoor IN-PERSON worship services beginning Sunday, August 1 @ 9:00a. Guidelines for these services will be shared as time gets closer, and more detailed information is available regarding the pandemic.

## REGATHERING IN-PERSON FOR MEETINGS, STUDY GROUPS, AND GATHERINGS

The Governor has begun to open up gathering restrictions. At this point we are allowing for in-person gatherings to occur. If your group wishes to meet in-person you will **NEED TO CONTACT Debby** to coordinate your meeting location and time. Meeting in-person is at the discretion of each group. Masks and other safety precautions will remain in place until further notice.

We are anticipating that by the fall we will be able resume all ministries in-person. The projection is that vaccines will be universally provided (for all who wish to be vaccinated) and that the impact of COVID will be diminished. So, beginning on September 12 our full-range of worship and ministry will be activated.

## RALLY DAY – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

We will begin our full Sunday schedule on Sunday, September 12. This will be inclusive of our full-schedule!

8:30a Traditional Worship  
9:45a Faith Formation  
Fellowship Time  
11:00a Contemporary Worship  
12:00p Fellowship Lunch

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

During this pandemic period, your Peace Church Staff has also been developing a full-compliment of ministry, mission and program opportunities for all ages. We are very excited to re-establish our existing programs and begin engaging in new and dynamic ministries.

On behalf of the Church Council and Staff, I want to extend a huge thank you to all of the members and friends of Peace Church who have (and continue) to support us and the church through this pandemic period. It has been a unique experience for all of us, and we so greatly appreciate the love and grace you have extended to all of us! THANK YOU!  
Peace,

## Welcome back Super Heroes!

I hope you all enjoyed learning about Jonah and the Big Fish. This month we are going to be talking about **Love of Creation**. The world we live in is a beautiful gift from God. The earth is a part of us and we are a part of it. How can we best love, honor and cherish the earth? How can we care for God's creation responsibly? These will be the questions we will be thinking about this month, and to help us answer them, we will be reading a few different stories from the book of Genesis in the Bible. I look forward to learning with you!

Make sure you also check out Episode 6 of our Peace Powers which will be posted on our Peace Faith Formation Program Plan page: (<https://www.peacechurchucc.org/ffprogramplan>).

Go Peace Powers!  
Pastor Winston

### Children (PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade):

Week 1: Mark 16:1-8 (God is Always Creating New Things)  
Week 2: Genesis 1 (Finding God)  
Week 3: Genesis 1:26 (We are the Caretakers)  
Week 4: Genesis 41:1-36 (How Should We Care for the Earth)

### Teens (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade):

April 3: Easter Egg Decorating, 4p  
April 14: Wellness Wednesday, 5:30  
July 25-30 : Summer Mission Trip to Duluth — (see details sent via US Mail)



# FEATURED EVENTS

## Meditation and Prayer Group

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 7:30—8:30p: Spend some time with us to turn inward and adopt a meditation and prayer practice. If you are interested in starting such a practice or already have a practice, join our group! This bi-monthly ZOOM group will continue through Easter.

Each session will begin with a guided meditation or prayer practice that may last anywhere from 5—20 minutes. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to process the experience, talk about your spiritual practice or ask questions. No experience is necessary. Join through this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85093176093> Questions? Contact Pastor Winston.

## Peace Powers Craft Time with Pastor Winston

EVERY SUNDAY\*, 10:30—11a: Join Pastor Winston and other Faith Formation friends as they work through the weekly Mission Box craft via this ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88408804439>

Questions? Contact Pastor Winston

\* No special craft time on Easter, April 4

## Women's Fellowship NEW DATE/TIME

MONDAYS, 8:00—9:00p: Join other women as we discuss different books and life itself; all ages welcome. Meeting day and time have been changed to better accommodate schedules. The book we are discussing now is: *Accidental Saints—Finding God in all the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Questions? Contact Marie Neher ([maneher3@gmail.com](mailto:maneher3@gmail.com))

## Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 9a — Weather permitting we will gather in the church parking lot to celebrate the good news! In case of inclement weather, the service will be brought inside for a live-stream service only with no congregation. A decision to if we will have an outdoor service will be made on Friday, April 2.

## May Mission Box Pick Up

SUNDAY, APRIL 25 - 12:30p —Stop by Peace Church to pick up our last mission boxes. We certainly appreciate all the super heroes that hung in with us this past year.

## Summer Out-Door Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 9, JUNE 13, JULY 11, 9a — The Church Council has decided to allow restricted in-person services every Sunday at Peace Church on the second Sunday of the summer months. A final decision will be made on the Friday prior to those Sundays if we can celebrate outdoors. Watch our web site for details.





# CALENDAR

## March Events

- FRIDAY 2:** Good Friday Meditation, 6p
- SATURDAY 3:** Teen Gathering, 4p
- SUNDAY 4:** Easter Service Life Stream, 9a (weather permitting will take place outdoors) \*\*No Fellowship Zoom\*\*
- WEDNESDAY 7:** Service Recording, 10a
- THURSDAY 8:** Meditation & Prayer Group, 7:30p
- SATURDAY 10:** Enormous Africa, 6p
- SUNDAY 11:** Service Broadcast, 9a; Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a; Peace Powers Craft Time w/Pastor Winston, 10:30a
- TUESDAY 13:** Race Forward, 7p
- WEDNESDAY 14:** Sunday service recording, 10a; Teen Well Being Wednesday, 5:30p
- SATURDAY 17:** Enormous Africa, 6p
- SUNDAY 18:** Service Broadcast, 9a; Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a; Peace Powers Craft Time w/Pastor Winston, 10:30a
- WEDNESDAY 21:** Sunday service recording, 10a
- SUNDAY 25:** Service Broadcast, 9a; Virtual Fellowship Time, 10a; Peace Powers Craft Time w/Pastor Winston, 10:30a; Mission Box Pick Up, 12p
- TUESDAY 27:** Race Forward, 7p

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP\*  
Every Monday, 8p  
(ZOOM)  
\*new date and time

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP  
Every Tuesday, 7a  
(ZOOM)

BEVERAGE AND BIBLE  
Every Tuesday, 5p  
(ZOOM)

RACE FORWARD  
Every Other Tuesday, 7p  
(ZOOM)

ENORMOUS AFRICA  
DISCUSSION  
Every other Saturday, 6p  
(ZOOM; Apr 10, 17)

SUNDAY VIRTUAL  
FELLOWSHIP  
Every Sunday\*, 10a  
(ZOOM) \*except 4/4  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89242168183?pwd=ZFc4eINKNG1La1dSNERhLOVhUWICdz09>  
or log into your own zoom with these meeting details.

**Meeting ID: 892 4216 8183**  
**Passcode: 568069**



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

We continue to get good pledge dollars in even though we have not meeting person for worship. Year to date, pledged gifts are down only \$10,611. That's not too bad with all things considered. Overall, expense control was very good. We're hanging in there as long as everyone can do what they can to meet their monthly pledge commitments and the staff continues to do a great job in expense control!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Tom DeYoung (ltdeyoung@msn.com).

	FEB 2021	Budgeted	Diff	FEB 2020
Pledges	\$25,525	\$35,167	-\$9,642	\$27,530
Total Income	\$29,608	\$40,800	-\$11,192	\$31,815
Total Expenses	\$38,316	\$44,309	-\$6,075	\$45,306
Net Income	-\$8,709	-\$3,591	-\$5,118	-\$13,390

## Memorial Scholarships Available

DEADLINE IS APRIL 9—Peace UCC provides 3 scholarships through our web site: <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

# April Birthdays

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

- 01** Donna Groth  
**02** Carol Timmers  
**04** Sara Franks  
**05** John Franks, Nicholas Molitor, Linus Winters  
**06** Laura Thompson, Marie Wilson  
**07** Mildred Lilleskov  
**08** Hannah Potts, Greg Trachsel  
**09** Jane Batterson, Molly Berg, Sela Rist  
**10** Diane Johnson, Kathy Timmers  
**11** Everett Johnson, Ben Winters  
**14** Isaiah Groth, Ryan Walton  
**16** Barb Karau, Karl Rist  
**17** Matt Buda  
**18** Daniel Kronemann, Allan Vrieze  
**19** Dale Ely  
**20** Joshua Barrows, Doris Underdahl  
**21** Emily Wussow,  
**22** Vivian Christie, Landon Robertson  
**23** Bridget Davis-Fritz, Mary Ely  
**24** Al Barker, Jean Boese  
**25** Emma Potts, Ellen Rebstock  
**29** Mallory Allen, Teagan Bennett  
**30** Alissa Giere, Dominic Osowski, Cooper Osowski



Note: Every Sunday in August we will be worshipping LIVE in the Sanctuary at 9a